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HOLIDAY FASHION

Simple rules to make
less look more
Iain R. Webb, page 17



ROB ROY HYPE

How Hollywood helps to
sell Scottish holidays
Magnus Linklater, p16

20P

THE TIMES

No. 65,287

WEDNESDAY JUNE 7 1995

'I did not mislead Parliament'

Tories rally to support Waldegrave

By Philip Webster
Political Editor

MINISTERS and Tory MPs rallied to William Waldegrave yesterday as he fought to save his political career.

The Agriculture Minister appeared last night to have survived the leaking of damaging extracts from early drafts of the report into the arms-to-Iraq affair after senior Tories combined to attack the BBC for disclosing it, the Labour Party for "smearing" the Minister and the Scott inquiry itself.

In a personal and private plea to Tory MPs last night, Mr Waldegrave said that the leak had put him in a grossly unfair position. In a note sent to MPs by his close associates, he said that there was "no conceivable reason why I should wish to have taken the absurd risk of consciously misleading Parliament for no personal or political gain. There is no plausible reason why my officials should have encouraged or permitted me to mislead Parliament. I did not."

Mr Waldegrave's future inevitably will come under question again when Scott reports, probably in the late autumn, but the belief among Tory MPs last night was that his passionate rebuttal had given him a stronger chance of hanging on than might have been the case without the premature disclosure of the findings against him. A senior minister said: "William has got his retaliation in first. He may have drawn the sting from the allegations against him."

Asked yesterday whether he intended to resign, Mr Waldegrave replied: "No, I won't. Caroline Waldegrave spoke up for her husband. I know he is telling the absolute truth," she said.

Despite Downing Street details that the Government



Waldegrave: he tells the truth, says wife

was out to discredit Sir Richard Scott's report, a wave of senior Tories criticised his understanding of the way Government operates. Ministers also criticised the judge when it was disclosed that he had been tipped off several hours in advance by Mr Waldegrave's legal team that the BBC was likely to broadcast leaks of the provisional conclusions of the inquiry on Monday night.

Sir Richard wrote to the BBC during Monday evening appealing for the item on his report to be dropped. But senior ministers and friends of Mr Waldegrave wondered why the judge had not sought an injunction to stop the BBC publishing the leak.

Speculation was rife at Westminster yesterday over the source of the leak of Sir Richard's draft conclusions that letters from Mr Waldegrave to MPs asserting that there had been no change of policy on selling arms to Saddam Hussein were untrue and "apt to mislead". He was also reported to have found that the Prime Minister signed "inaccurate" letters on the issue during his brief period as Foreign Secretary in 1989. Some Labour MPs and

Lord Richard, the Labour leader in the Lords, said that the extract may have been leaked by the Government to undermine the inquiry. However, Downing Street said last night: "The Government does not benefit from this leak... and does not want to discredit the inquiry." A formal leak inquiry was ruled out, but officials said that checks within the government machine had found no evidence that the disclosure came from within the Government.

Some Tory MPs suggested that the leak had been made by a political opponent of the Government who feared that Sir Richard's draft would be watered down after his exchanges of correspondence with the subjects of his report.

The leak undermined the potential of the final report to cause deep embarrassment and danger to the Government when it appears. Lord Howe, the former Foreign Secretary, intensified the campaign against the way the inquiry has been conducted by suggesting that Sir Richard did not understand the workings of Whitehall. He said: "To judge ministers or civil servants on the strength of a draft report which does not itself take account of realities of government is to risk committing a grave injustice."

David Howell, Tory chairman of the Foreign Affairs Select Committee, said: "I think there is a worry that the investigation, conducted very much in the public blaze of an inquisitorial operation that begins to look very much like a prosecuting operation, is trying to go into complex areas of the way the government machinery works. I wonder whether they have had really expert advice sitting alongside."

Continued on page 2, col 6



Behind Lord Wilson's coffin, his insignia of the Order of the Garter is borne on a velvet cushion. On the far right walks Lady Falkender

Simple island funeral for Lord Wilson

From Alan Hamilton
Isles of Scilly

LORD WILSON of Riveaux was buried yesterday in the Isles of Scilly, the retreat that gave him regular sanctuary from public life for more than 40 years.

His funeral was as if for a native islander, with boatmen, shopkeepers and neighbours far outnumbering a small delegation of Labour dignitaries among the congregation of 300 at the Church of St Mary the Virgin in Hugh Town, the island's tiny capital.

Lady Wilson, his widow, had asked that the party of official mourners from London be kept as small as possible: it was, above all, to be an intimate local occasion. Lord Wilson, who died in St Thomas's Hospital, London, on May 28, aged 79, is

remembered on the Scillies not so much as a Prime Minister and parliamentarian as a man in pipe and baggy shorts who was accorded the priceless privilege for a public man of being able to sit undisturbed in the garden of his bungalow.

The few faces from a now-distant political age who flew in to honour the first Prime Minister since Gladstone to win four elections were still familiar across the years. Lady Falkender, who had organised Lord Wilson's life since 1956, was still there handling arrangements even in his death.

Tony Blair led the Westminster mourners. Lord Callaghan, still looking avuncular, accompanied Barbara Castle, still spry in bright orange and a faultless hairdo. Gerald Kaufman, once a member of the notorious Wil-

son Kitchen Cabinet, accompanied Margaret Beckett, the briefest of all Labour leaders. Of other past but still living heads of the party, Michael Foot was too frail to attend, and Neil Kinnock too busy with Euro-business.

Watchers struggled to recognise Tom Sawyer, Labour's General Secretary. Lord Graham, Labour Chief Whip in the Lords, Lord Armstrong, once Wilson's private secretary, and Sir Robin Butler, the present Cabinet Secretary, from Lord Wilson's successor in the highest political office in the land, a wreath of white roses and lilies bore the card: "With warm regards, John and Norma Major."

The Prime Minister was represented in person by David Harris, Tory MP for St Ives and the Isles of Scilly. Above the church the flag of Trinity House, of which Lord

Wilson was an Honorary Elder Brother, hung limp at half-mast in the still, sunny air, as did flags throughout the island.

When the Wilsons were in residence the flag would fly from a pole in the garden of Loweava, the modest bungalow 300 yards from the sea they built in 1958.

Inside the plain Victorian church the coffin, draped in another red, white and black Trinity House flag, was surmounted by a wreath of white lilies and Lord Wilson's insignia of the Order of the Garter on a pale blue velvet cushion. Lady Wilson, a diminutive

figure in black, sat in the front pew with her sons and grandchildren. Lady Falkender, her sister and sons, sat directly behind.

The service was simple, as befitted Lord Wilson's Northern Nonconformist roots. His son, Robin, read from 1 Corinthians "Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels..."

Mr Blair read the second lesson from the Book of Revelations "I seen a new Heaven and a new Earth..."

In a moving eulogy, Lord Tonypandy, who as George Thomas was the Wilson gov-

Continued on page 2, col 3

Clegg must wait for decision over review

By Nicholas Watt, Ireland Correspondent

SUPPORTERS of Private Lee Clegg, the jailed paratrooper, attacked the Government for refusing to inform them of deliberations at a meeting in Belfast yesterday to review his life sentence.

As the Northern Ireland Life Sentence Review Board met privately at Stormont, Clegg's legal adviser said the paratrooper's family was disappointed that the board's findings would be kept secret.

Simon McKay said: "It is Clegg's appeal for release after all. I think it's a case of when he will be released, rather than if." The Northern Ireland Prison Service said that the

board's advice, which is passed to Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland Secretary, remained confidential.

Clegg, 27, who was convicted in 1993 of murdering Karen Reilly, a passenger in a joyride car in Belfast in 1990, will have to wait at least a month to hear whether he is to be freed on licence from Wakefield jail.

The soldier's mother Wynne, his stepfather Jack Johnson, and sister Dawn McPherson, were waiting for the news while abroad on holiday and his father, Stanley Clegg, 54, was sitting by the phone in a London hotel with a bottle of champagne in the fridge.

The review board can recommend to Sir Patrick that a provisional release date be set, but the procedure is lengthy because the Northern Ireland Secretary would have to consult the judiciary if he accepted the board's recommendation.

The board, which includes Northern Ireland's senior medical officer and a psychiatrist, normally does not consider life sentences until inmates have served ten years. However, the Government has said that there are "mitigating circumstances" in Clegg's case.

'Living in sin' is no longer sinful, says church report

By Ruth Gledhill, Religion Correspondent

LIVING in sin should no longer be condemned and the phrase should be dropped, according to a Church of England report on the family published yesterday, prompting immediate criticism and the resignation of one of its authors.

The report says the phrase living in sin is a "most unhelpful" way of describing the lives of people who cohabit. It says unmarried couples who live together should not only be welcomed and supported, but argues that the church should learn from them.

Alan Storkey, a lecturer at a Church of England theological college, resigned from the working party responsible, condemning the report as not Christian enough.

Another leading church member described it as an "obituary" to the family. The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, appeared to distance himself, insisting: "It is not, and does not purport to be, the church's authoritative teaching."

The Right Rev Jim Thompson, Bishop of Bath and Wells, said: "We do expect fireworks." But he said the work-

ing party had avoided "populist" views. Bishop Thompson was responsible for appointing its members.

He said: "I believe that this report sets out a Christian vision for family life. It wrestles with the realities of contemporary society."

Something to Celebrate argues that some forms of cohabitation "are marriages in all but name". It says living together, if a lifelong and exclusive commitment, may be a legitimate form of marriage, describing it as "pre-ceremonial" or "without ceremonial" marriage.

It criticises the phrase living in sin as a way of reducing

cohabitation to "a single, sensationalist category". The report says the phrase "perpetuates the widespread misconception that sex is sinful and that sin is only about sex."

In the report, the church's board for social responsibility, which is chaired by the Bishop of Liverpool, the Right Rev David Sheppard, warns against judgmental attitudes about "fornication". Congregations should "welcome" cohabiters, listen to them and learn from them, it says, estimating that four in five couples will live together before they marry by 2000.

The report, the church's first on this issue for 20 years, also urges a "ready welcome" for "gay and lesbian families", and recognises that many gay and lesbian partnerships are built on the desire for commitment.

It said that the Church should resist the temptation to look back to a "golden age of the family" and instead support families in all their diversity and to help people build strong committed faithful relationships.

It notes that marriage was not defined in England by the town by bus. Page 12

St Ethelburga ruins saved

The ruins of St Ethelburga, the Grade I listed church almost destroyed when the IRA bombed Bishopsgate in the City of London, are expected to be preserved as a church in a new building that will stand as a memorial to the victims. A competition to find a development for the devastated site has been won by a non-commercial scheme to preserve the remains and enclose them within a glass-fronted structure. Page 7

New storm over Camelot bonuses

Camelot Group, the National Lottery operator, is at the centre of a fresh storm after disclosing that top executives were paid huge bonuses for hitting the launch deadline. Camelot's profit of £10.8 million in the first 20 weeks prompted protest. Page 25

Hostage hope

Fifty-eight United Nations peacekeepers being held hostage were taken to Zvornik on the Bosnia-Serbia border to be released. A Bosnian Serb agency said that 43 Ukrainians, 14 French and one Spaniard had been taken to the town by bus. Page 12

"All clear for take off."



TV & RADIO 46, 47
WEATHER 24
CROSSWORDS 24, 48

LETTERS 19
OBITUARIES 21
SIMON JENKINS 18

ARTS 39-41
CHESS & BRIDGE 44
COURT & SOCIAL 20

SPORT 42-46, 48
FASHION 17
MEDIA 22-23

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Garel-Jones (C. Watford) could only ever play lago, but, attempting the role of Fairy Godmother (minus spangled tux), he told Dorrell he could help to "make Watford the Hollywood of Western Europe". Harry Greenway (C. Ealing N) welcomed the revival of Ealing Studios, and recalled the Ealing Comedies.

In more ways than he supposed. Nobody who remembers the lavatory attendant in *Carry On At Your Convenience* could fail to smile.

One in three pregnancies is unplanned, but the number could be reduced if family planning clinics had longer opening hours, according to the Family Planning Association. In a report on the costs and benefits of family planning, the association says half the 2,300 clinics are open one day a week or less and only one in 20 is open at weekends.

He lies now amid the graves of local worthies and memorials to those who have died of shipwreck on the islands' treacherous reefs.

At his feet lies Lloyd Hicks, a popular local boatman who died in 1980, and whose headstone is already almost illegible under the lichen that flourishes in the islands' unpolluted air.

The peace that Lord Wilson sought in the Scillies was never so perfect as that he finally found in the most humble yet glorious of graveyards.

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In this week's *Church of England Newspaper*, he condemns the report as being

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Leak inquiry, page 11
Simon Jenkins, page 18
Leading article, page 19

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Volunteers sought to build caring Britain

BY RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

A DRIVE to encourage people to become more active citizens taking part in voluntary work was launched by the Government yesterday.

The campaign will be aimed particularly at youngsters and elderly people to try to create a more neighbourly and less selfish society. Organisations will also be encouraged to recruit from the unemployed, low income groups and members of ethnic minorities.

Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, said at the launch in Kensington, west London: "Lending a hand to help others is an essential way of creating a more neighbourly society."

The Government plans to spend £6 million over three years on a strategy that will include offering everyone aged 15-25 the opportunity to do voluntary work. They will be able to contact a nationwide network of agencies that will match their interests and skills to opportunities.

Businesses will be encouraged to give information on pre-retirement courses about voluntary work.

Mr Howard told the conference, attended by representatives of the voluntary sector, companies and other bodies, that volunteers had already grown by 15 per cent to 23 million between 1981 and 1991. "This is hardly the nation of 'everyone out for themselves'."

that some would have us believe is the case," he added. But the Government has rejected proposals for a full-time voluntary corps — as proposed by Labour and the Liberal Democrats. Mr Howard said such a scheme could cost £400 million a year.

Under yesterday's proposals a new organisation, the Voluntary Partnership, will be created to advise ministers on how to promote voluntary work.

Twenty local agencies, each with a budget of £60,000 for two years, will be set up after a competition for the money. A further £1.5 million will be provided for 50 innovative projects involving youngsters and elderly people.

Two pilot regional publicity campaigns to encourage voluntary work will be run and a "Make a Difference" award will be given annually to recognise outstanding achievement in volunteering.

The Government's proposals follow a report that found that many organisations are having trouble recruiting people for voluntary work.

In the 1980s, the increase of volunteers was linked to sport, leisure and environmental interests rather than the traditional welfare areas. The report also said that job insecurity and more part-time working by women may reduce the pool of volunteers. Many volunteers were upper or middle class, people without children and the unemployed were often least likely to volunteer.

The report also found that mainstream organisations failed to use volunteers from the ethnic minorities in spite of their tradition of voluntary action based around temples, churches and mosques. "Plenty of black people wanted to volunteer but found mainstream volunteering organisations were not responsive to their needs," the report said.

Leading article, page 19



Danielle Souness: sat near by in court

Souness sues over 'dirty rat' claim by ex-wife

BY KATHRYN KNIGHT

THE former Liverpool football manager Graeme Souness wept in the witness box yesterday as he began a High Court libel action over his former wife's allegations in a Sunday newspaper that he had behaved like "a dirty rat" to their children.

Mr Souness, 42, who now manages the Turkish club Galatasaray, is seeking "massive" damages from Mirror Group Newspapers after *The People* ran a front-page interview with his first wife, Danielle, in which she claimed that he had told her to "get stuffed" when she asked for money to feed and clothe their three children.

The article, which appeared on May 9, 1993, claimed that Mr Souness, who has since remarried, tried to evict Mrs Souness, 39, and the children from their Surrey farmhouse just before Christmas, and had refused to pay the children's school fees. The article quoted Mrs Souness saying: "Graeme told me, 'I don't give a bugger, get out and take the children with you.'"

Choking back tears, Mr Souness said that his sons Fraser, 14, Jordan, 10, and his adopted daughter Chantelle, 20, from Mrs Souness's first marriage, were the most important things in his life. "I think because of the job I had, I experienced great emotional highs but when you

have a child that eclipses everything else, I think I am like most fathers when I say that they are the most important things in my life, along with my [current] wife and my daughter."

He said his former wife had never had to "grovel" for money, as the paper had claimed. "If there was ever a problem, if she needed anything for my children, it was only a phone call away."

Lord Williams, QC, for Mr Souness, said that Mr Souness had been left "completely numb" by the article, for which Mrs Souness had

been paid. He told the jury: "When Judas betrayed Jesus Christ he got 30 pieces of silver. She got £20,000, less £5,000 for the agency."

Mr and Mrs Souness, who married in 1980, parted in the autumn of 1988. Lord Williams said they had drawn up an agreement in which Mrs Souness got custody of the children and was given a cash sum of £560,000, together with land in Majorca valued at about £500,000.

Mr Souness had agreed to pay for the children's education while they remained in Britain and later bought the

farmhouse near Woking, Surrey, for Mrs Souness and the children. He had spent a further £270,000 on renovating the house.

In April 1992, shortly after meeting his second wife Karen, a former model, Mr Souness had to have a heart bypass operation. "By the end of 1992 he was having to think about his future," Lord Williams said. In November his solicitor served a notice to Mrs Souness to quit the farmhouse in 28 days. "It was never enforced. He never turned them out, ever."

The case continues.

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have a child that eclipses everything else, I think I am like most fathers when I say that they are the most important things in my life, along with my [current] wife and my daughter."

Maxwell 'had a free hand over pension fund'

BY MICHAEL HORSNELL

ROBERT MAXWELL was allowed to act as a one-man investment management team with pensioners' money, transferring assets within his empire to suit himself, the *Old Bailey* was told yesterday.

Unchallenged by auditors or regulators, the publishing tycoon regularly swapped shares between his companies and eventually pensioners became concerned about his high level of intercompany investment.

Trevor Cook, former administrator of Bishopsgate Investment Management (BIM), which managed the

pension fund, said that in 1991, the year Maxwell died at sea, an informal group of pensioners was asking questions about benefit levels.

Mr Cook, 45, the first witness in the trial of Maxwell's sons Kevin and Ian, who are accused of fraud, said the pensioners appointed solicitors as a dispute developed. They were challenging a 3 per cent rise in benefits and wanted their pensions to be fully index-linked because they felt sufficient resources were available.

Among their concerns was an alleged over-investment by the BIM common investment fund in Maxwell companies, particularly Max-

well Communication Corporation. Mr Cook conceded that he defended the policies against the accusations of the pensioners even though he had his own concerns about Maxwell's investment practices.

Earlier Mr Cook said that Maxwell, who was "doubly demanding" of his sons, kept a chaotic filing system and lost important papers including a document worth £2 million that belonged to BIM. In 1986 the tycoon acquired nearly £50 million Becham shares for MCC, selling them on to pension schemes and then returning them to MCC.

Maxwell proved, in the "great

days" of the mid-eighties, to be extremely successful in his investments, Mr Cook said, and foresaw the Black Friday crash in the City.

Asked how Maxwell appeared in 1991, before his death in November, Mr Cook said: "In general, perhaps even busier than he had been before but I suppose, as he got older, with slightly less of a grip on things. He became more of an ordinary man than what one would describe as a superman."

By then, Kevin Maxwell had taken on the role of second-in-command and had an office with an interconnecting door next to his father's.

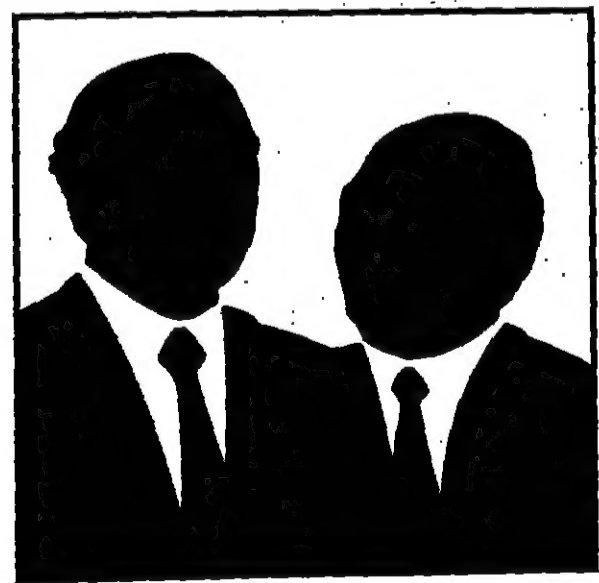
They were regularly seen in each other's offices and information was readily shared by them. Ian Maxwell was less concerned with finance.

Kevin Maxwell, 36, has denied conspiring with his father to defraud pensioners of shares worth £100 million in the Israeli-based Sorex Corporation to pay the debts of Maxwell companies. With his brother Ian, 38, and two Maxwell executives, Larry Trachtenberg, 42, and Robert Bunn, 47, he also denies conspiring to defraud pensioners of another £22 million of shares in Teva Pharmaceutical Industries. The trial continues today.



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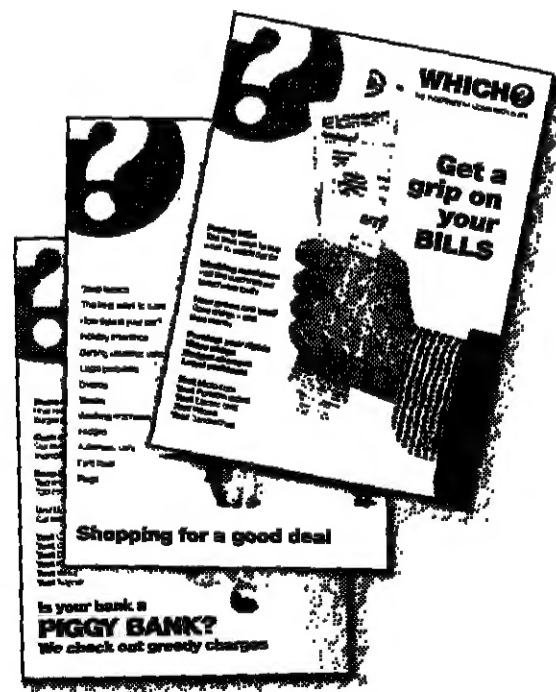
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Winning design 'a more poignant statement than extensively rebuilding St Ethelburga'

Bombed church to be a memorial to victims

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THE medieval ruins of St Ethelburga, the Grade I listed church almost destroyed when the IRA bombed Bishopsgate in the City of London, are expected to be preserved as a church in a new building that will stand as a memorial to the victims.

A competition to find a development for the devastated site has been won by a non-commercial scheme to preserve the remains as the bomb left them and enclose them within a modern glass-fronted structure. The Times has long campaigned for the church to be rebuilt rather than the ruins be torn down and the site disappear beneath an office block.

Dr David Hope, the Bishop of London, who received the competition report and discussed it with his Bishop's Council last night, will begin a period of consultation before making his final decision later this summer.

If he decides in favour of the winning scheme, a sponsor will be needed to pay for it. The church could be open to the public within two years if approval is granted by the planning and conservation authorities.

The scheme is intended to produce 'a modern, multi-

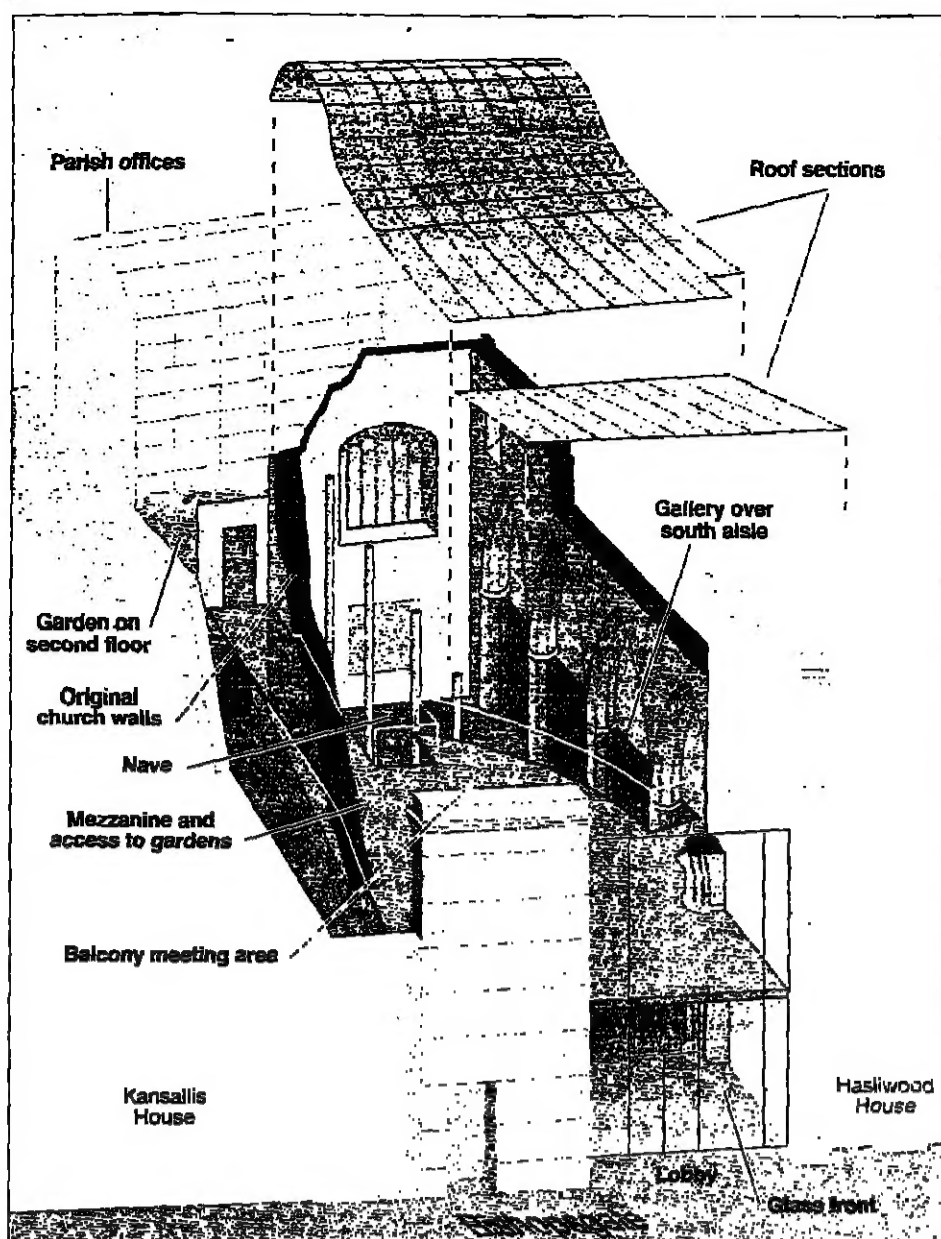
function meeting place' for the City of London's Christian community. It will include a garden on the first floor, vestry offices for the nearby church of St Helen Bishopsgate, a meeting room and gallery, and a church for worship and prayer. It will contain a memorial to the victims of the 1992 and 1993 bombings. The church will remain within the section of nave that survived the bomb, using all the available floor space there.

The proposal conserves the damaged walls of the church, with solid brick pylons on the Bishopsgate frontage built against the towering office buildings on either side.

Between these is the main entrance, which will allow all who pass by to see inside. A new gallery and mezzanine floor link the spaces inside, topped by a wave-like roof that will be partially supported by the old walls. At the back will be 3,000 sq ft of parish office space and a raised garden.

What remains of the 1662 Hans Felbusch mural depicting the crucified and risen Christ will be preserved.

Of ten designs submitted, assessors chose that by the architects Blec Ettwein Bridges. A proposal by the



The proposed scheme to conserve the ruins, left. St Ethelburga as it was before the bombing, top right, and after the attack in April 1993

Friends of St Ethelburga's to reproduce the medieval church was rejected because it had 'less architectural relevance'. The winning design, according to the assessors' report, 'is a more poignant architectural statement than

extensively rebuilding the pre-bomb church'.

A large part of St Ethelburga's church, a guild church built in the late 14th and early 15th centuries, was destroyed by the Bishopsgate bomb on April 24, 1993.

Before the bomb the church had been declared a 'chapel of ease', for the use of City workers. It was then declared redundant pending a decision on its future.

Paul Sutherland, of the Friends of St Ethelburga, said:

'Obviously it is disappointing but at least there is some element of conservation involved and it is not commercially led.'

According to the assessors' report, a scholarly reproduction of St Ethelburga 'would

necessitate a great amount of demolition and replacement, the result being largely a reproduction rather than a restoration'.

Leading article, page 19
Photograph, page 24

NEWS IN BRIEF

Met pays £28,000 damages over arrest

A woman and her son won £28,000 damages from the Metropolitan Police in the High Court yesterday after officers burst into their home in a case of mistaken identity. Cecile Imbert, 62, spent two days in hospital after the incident in which her son Colin was arrested. They accused three officers based at Forest Gate of lying, assault and battery, false imprisonment and malicious prosecution. The Metropolitan Police expressed regret over the allegations and offered damages but did not admit liability. The officers involved are still serving.

Meningitis death

Samantha Jackson, 10, of Easingwold, North Yorkshire, who hoped to swim for Britain in the Olympics, has died from meningitis within hours of being taken to hospital.

Judo boy chokes

A boy aged 10 is believed to have been choked to death by his judo belt while playing in his bedroom at Kempsey, Hereford and Worcester, police said.

Cot for coma girl

Karen Battenbough, who was born 11 weeks early because her mother was in a coma, has been moved out of her incubator into a cot. She is now five weeks old and weighs 4lb 2oz.

Worker trapped

A 55-year-old farm worker from Little Tew, Oxfordshire, spent a night pinned to the ground by a trailer that had slipped on to his legs. He was treated for minor injuries.

Sale grounded

An autograph book containing the signatures of 107 RAF officers during the Battle of Britain was withdrawn from sale at Bonhams after it failed to reach its £15,000 reserve.

Musical washout

A performance of *Singing in the Rain* was cancelled at Edinburgh's Playhouse Theatre after it was flooded with hundreds of gallons from a leaking sprinkler.

Legal test for new fuel

By MICHAEL HORNSBY
COUNTRYSIDE
CORRESPONDENT

A CYSTIC fibrosis sufferer has been given permission for a judicial review of plans to burn a controversial new fuel at an electricity generating station.

Toby Chapman, 20, who lives a mile from the National Power plant at Pembroke

Dock, Dyfed, claims that use of the bitumen-based fuel Orimulsion will increase air pollution and damage his health. He says it should not have been approved by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Pollution.

Cystic fibrosis is an inherited condition that affects the lungs, and the review will be seen as a test case by sufferers of asthma and other respira-

tory ailments who fear that the burning of Orimulsion will exacerbate their illnesses.

Mr Justice Sedley granted leave for the review yesterday at the High Court. Lawyers for Mr Chapman, who has been granted legal aid, will argue that National Power should have been forced to use allegedly superior pollution-control technology at the generating station.

Injury time costs economy £405m

By JOHN GOODBODY
SPORTS NEWS CORRESPONDENT

BRITONS' fondness for sport resulted in eight million working days being lost through injury on the field of play last year. According to insurance figures published yesterday, the cost to the economy was £405 million.

Rugby was the most dangerous activity, with an average of 145 players per 1,000 being hurt, followed by football with 79. Safest was swimming, Britain's

favourite participation sport, with a mere eight out of 1,000. Of the 20 million recorded injuries in 1994 nearly 1.5 million were bad enough to force the victims to miss at least one day's work.

Greg McLatchie, director of the National Sports Medicine Institute, said the Association of British Insurers' findings did not surprise him. 'I have just been watching the England players on television being interviewed after their last World Cup game. It was noticeable how many had splints and

plaster, and those were injuries you could see.'

He pointed out that although sport did lead to people missing work through injury, sporting individuals enjoyed a better quality of life and were absent less often than sedentary workers.

Leading sports, with the number of injuries per 1,000, were: rugby union 145, football 79, cricket 62, martial arts 61, badminton 36, squash 29, tennis 25, horse riding 22, running 18, weight training 14, keep fit 9, swimming 8.

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Win a trip to United Airlines' 7 Wonders of the New World.

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(staying at The Palmer House Hilton). 6. The Rocky Mountains near Denver (staying at Denver Hilton South). 7. Hawaiian Islands (staying at the Hilton Hawaiian Village).

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NHS trusts spend up to 10% of budget on administrators

BY JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

NHS TRUSTS are spending up to 10 per cent of their budgets on employing senior managers to run their services, a health watchdog reports today. Wide variations in management costs are disclosed in the study by the Audit Commission, which found that some trusts spent up to four times more than others.

In 1993-94 individual trusts spent between £500,000 and £6 million on senior managers, at an average cost in salary and other benefits of £26,500 each. Larger trusts had higher management costs but, when expressed as a percentage of total spending, these still varied between 2 and almost 10 per cent. The trust with the highest management costs is Guy's and St Thomas's at £9 million, £2 million more than expected for a trust of its size. Those with the highest costs had more managers not higher salary levels.

Figures obtained by Alan Milburn, Labour MP for Dar-

lington, in answer to parliamentary questions, show that spending on management by health authorities rose by 35 per cent in the first three years of the NHS reforms to just over £1 billion last year.

All NHS trusts are to publish details of their management costs from September, Virginia Bottomley, the Health Secretary, said. "I am determined to maximise the proportion of expenditure devoted to direct patient care by simplifying and streamlining NHS management." Thousands of jobs have already been cut in regional health authorities and the Health Department's headquarters.

However, the Audit Commission says that cutting spending on management "is a dangerous game, however popular it makes the player". It says that managers share the same objectives as their clinical colleagues — delivering more health care more effectively — and that "it is at least possible that spending more on management may

bring the greater benefit". The Health Department said that managers accounted for 2.5 per cent of the NHS workforce and that hospitals were treating more patients than ever before.

A former government health adviser calls today for an independent national health inspectorate to regulate the work of hospital doctors.

Dr John Yates, an expert on NHS management, says the inspectorate is needed to check on whether the care being provided is appropriate, to correct the uneven provision of resources across the country and to check on staff performance, including how much time consultants spend working privately.

"When you travel by plane, train or car there is an inspectorate concerned about the safety of what you are doing. But when you travel on a theatre trolley there is no inspectorate and that journey can be more dangerous," Dr Yates said.

Council officers drown on visit to Belorussia

BY GILLIAN BOWDITCH, SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

ONE of the two Aberdeen council officers who drowned while on a trip to Belorussia had just returned to work from paternity leave.

Iain McDonald, whose son is three weeks old, and Ann Hughes were killed while swimming in the river in Gomel, a town in the former Soviet state of Belorussia. The two senior officials from Aberdeen District Council were on a three-week visit to the town, which is close to Chernobyl and is twinned with Aberdeen.

The accident happened on a hot Sunday and the officials and their hosts were having a rest by the river. The two are believed to have been swimming when they were hit by a boat. Full details of the accident are not yet known and no bodies have been recovered.

Ms Hughes, 44, who was divorced with a grown-up daughter, was deputy chief executive of the council. Mr McDonald, 36, who also has



Iain McDonald and Ann Hughes died while swimming in a river at Gomel

a four-year-old daughter, was the principal environmental health officer. Both were members of the council's environmental project team and were in Gomel to look at effects of the Chernobyl disaster in 1986.

There were 41 people on the tour, including six council members, three members of staff and three councillors. They left on June 1 and are due back on June 22.

The Lord Provost of Aberdeen, James Wyness, said: "My wife and I are both devastated, as is everyone working on the council. We

still haven't had all the information we need but what we have been told is that two senior council officials died in a very tragic accident."

Yesterday friends and colleagues paid tribute to the two officials. Margaret Farquhar, the council's policy convenor, said: "We are all devastated by the news. Ann was a hard-working official and would do anything for you in the interests of the council. Iain was a popular and highly regarded member of staff."

Anne Mearns, chief executive of the council, said: "I

enjoyed and benefited from Ann's quick wit and we enjoyed sparking ideas off against each other. It is difficult to imagine the council without her. She was a prodigious worker who will be difficult to replace."

"Iain will be remembered for his great willingness to listen to others' points of view."

The Foreign Office said that the British Embassy in Minsk was keeping in touch with the council group in Gomel but communications between the two towns were poor.

Prison's gallows to be removed

BY GILLIAN BOWDITCH

THE execution chamber at Barlinnie prison in Glasgow is to be demolished, 35 years after the last condemned man was hanged there. The locked room, known as the hanging shed, will go as part of a £5 million refurbishment to reduce overcrowding.

Four of Scotland's Victorian prisons still have execution chambers but those at Edinburgh and Aberdeen are also expected to be demolished soon. The execution room at Perth will remain because under Scots law the death penalty still stands for treason and sedition and Scotland is required to retain a set of gallows.

The chamber at Barlinnie was built in 1860 and allowed three men to be hanged at the same time, though it was never used for multiple executions. Nine men were hanged there. The first was John Lyon in 1946 and the last 19-year-old Tony Miller in 1960.

The last man to be hanged in Scotland was Henry John Burnett, who was executed in Aberdeen prison in 1963. The death penalty for murder was abolished two years later.

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MEDICAL BRIEFING

Can vasectomy increase libido?

A vasectomy is often thought of as the ultimate act of demonstration devotion and consideration. The operation is not without its side-effects. Post-operative discomfort is more common than realised but it is usually short-lived.

There are three more important considerations. If the man finds a new partner, she may want children. Also, a possible relationship between the operation and, later, cancer of the prostate has been mooted.

Finally, in animals that have had a vasectomy the testes shrink earlier in old age, and in some species there are premature changes in the cardiovascular system. Neither of these two side effects has been demonstrated in humans, however.

A recent transatlantic study provided reassuring news on one count, and surprising data on another. The journal of the National Cancer Institute reported on 1,600 patients with cancer of the prostate.

The good news is that when their past medical history was compared with a similar group of healthy men, there seemed to be no relationship between vasectomy and development of this cancer. Roger

Kirby, a consultant urologist who specialises in prostatic disease, said: "This bears out the feeling urologists have that any supposed link between cancer of the prostate and vasectomy is spurious. In my view, it is not only a simple operation but a safe one which worldwide is the most important form of contraception."

The surprising finding from the study was that vasectomised men had lower blood levels of sex hormone binding globulin, and a higher ratio of dihydrotestosterone to testosterone. These figures would seem to show a heightened sexual prowess after the vasectomy.

Dr Malcolm Carruthers, a consultant pathologist whose particular interest is andrology, said: "This is a remarkable result that will need careful evaluation. If there were not confounding factors I would have expected the reverse because, in my experience, some vasectomised men lose their sex drive and potency earlier than other people, often about 10 to 15 years after their operation."

DR THOMAS STUTTAFOORD

Complaint against advertisement upheld

BY ROBIN YOUNG

THE Advertising Standards Authority has upheld a complaint against Times Newspapers Ltd, publishers of *The Times*, over a trade press advertisement that claimed: "While the *Telegraph* readership withers the *Times* readership looks healthier than ever."

The *Telegraph* plc objected that the advertisement was misleading because readership of *The Daily Telegraph* had increased in most groups between October 1993 and September 1994.

The adjudication, published today, reads: "The advertisers believed the wording in their advertisement accurately described the relative readership performance levels of the two newspapers. The *Times* had achieved significant growth since 1994 whereas the *Telegraph* had experienced a de-

cline in readership. They said they had chosen the word 'withers' to portray the readership profile of *The Times* as younger than that of the *Telegraph*, which had a higher proportion of its readers from the over-45 age group."

"They acknowledged, however, that readership of the *Telegraph* had increased in recent months. The Authority noted from the National Readership Survey that the *Telegraph*, at present, had a higher total and more readers under 45 than *The Times*. The Authority considered the advertisement was misleading, because it did not reflect the most recent surveys that showed the *Telegraph's* readership had increased between October 1993 and September 1994. It asked the advertisers to avoid misleading comparisons in future advertisements."



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Discarded food blamed for invasion of rodents

By Nick Nuttall
ENVIRONMENT
CORRESPONDENT

THE rise of the fast-food society in which streets are littered with half-eaten meals is being blamed for a sharp increase in the rat population. A survey by environmental health officers shows that rat infestations of homes have climbed by 39 per cent in England and Wales since the 1970s.

Adrian Meyer, of the Central Science Laboratory in Slough, Berkshire, and an author of the report, said yesterday that discarded food in bins or on streets was helping the growth.

The privatised water companies are also blamed for failing to bait sewers sufficiently. Pest-control experts said that mice infestations were also growing and could pose a greater health hazard. Mice can gnaw through electricity wires, increasing fire risks, and can carry plague-like diseases as well as typhus, food-poisoning bacteria and tapeworm.

While flea-infested rats are most feared as bringers of



The rat, feared as bringer of disease, including plague

plague, they can also carry trichinosis, a tape worm-like organism, and Weil's Disease. They may harbour food-poisoning diseases including salmonella and a bite can cause Rat Fever.

Peter Bateman, a past president of the British Pest Control Association, said: "A rat in the garden, or the shed may be unpleasant but a mouse in the house, where its droppings can get on to food, is probably even more worrying."

Mouse infestation has risen by 12 per cent since 1979, mainly in rural areas. Mr Bateman said: "The average mouse sheds 80 droppings every 24 hours and urinates all the time to mark out its

territory." The survey found that nearly a third of homes found to have mice were left untreated.

The national survey, looking at infestation by the brown rat, *Rattus norvegicus*, and the house mouse, *Mus musculus*, has been carried out by the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health, the Agriculture Ministry and the Central Science Laboratory. More than 9,000 homes, farms, businesses and offices in 191 local authorities in England and Wales were checked. Rat infestations have risen nearly 12 per cent (39 per cent in homes) since 1979 and one in 20 homes is infested.

Graham Jukes, director of

professional services at the institute, said: "There is a clear need for immediate action to control what is becoming an increasing problem. While fluctuations in the rodent population are normal, the extent of this increase, combined with the fact that many infestations are not being treated, indicates that improved methods of control must be introduced and co-ordinated nationally."

The report notes that responsibility for pest control is split between government departments, local authorities, research agencies, land owners and water companies. It recommends that one department takes overall responsibility. Water companies are also urged to bait sewers.

Psychiatrists believe that people's dislike of rats may not just stem from their links with disease. Dr Peter Hayward of the Institute of Psychiatry in London said the fear may echo a time when mankind became genetically programmed to avoid certain creatures. "The theory is that it is some kind of predisposed fear related to long tails that rats have which are snake-like."



A rat catcher in north London puts down poisoned bait to cope with a growing menace

Mouses range from the brutal to the furry

BATTERY of weapons ranging from the humble to the high-tech is available for dealing with mice in the home (Nick Nuttall writes).

Peter Bateman, a former director of Renkill, said yesterday that several humane poisons were available. One kills mice overnight by locking them out, which lowers their body temperature and they die from exposure. Another overdoses the mouse on vitamins and others have anti-coagulants, so that the mice bleed to death.

Mr Bateman said use of the traditional trap had fallen because some people were squeamish about removing the bodies. "If you must use them you will find nutty chocolate a more effective bait than cheese."

The company has recently developed a device called Mouse Alert, which uses infra-red beams, a computer and automatic telephone calls to pest control officers, who arrive to remove the creature. But the most efficient rodent operative requires neither computer nor batteries and is far better company: a cat.

Hormone-change chemical added to list of hazards

■ An industrial detergent is being linked to falling sperm counts and increasing cancer among Western men, Nick Nuttall reports

A COMMON chemical faces a Europe-wide ban after research in Britain linked it with hormonal disorders. John Gummer, Secretary of State for the Environment, has ordered the industrial detergent nonylphenol to be added to a priority list of hazardous substances.

It is the first important chemical to be singled out as a likely "oestrogen mimicker" and is one of a number of man-made substances implicated in falling sperm counts, increased cases of undescended testes and other disorders. Other chemicals suspected of containing hormone disrupting properties are expected to be added to the list.

Approximately 400 mainly man-made substances, ranging from pesticides to paint additives, are under suspicion. Their effects in the West include a drop in sperm quality and counts by as much as 26 per cent a year. They could also be responsible for the increase in testicular and breast cancers.

They are called oestrogen mimickers because they appear to mirror the impact of female hormones on humans and animals. Some may also neutralise the male androgen hormones with a resulting

feminising effect. Scientists are especially worried about their impact on babies in the womb, when cells in the developing testes may be most at risk.

Tests on behalf of the Agriculture Ministry and Environment Department at centres such as Brunel University have linked the industrial detergent with sex hormone changes in trout. "Fish have been affected and nonylphenol has been in the water at the same time. The finger of suspicion is pointing at it," a spokesman for the DoE said yesterday.

Conservationists will welcome the proposed ban. Greenpeace claims that such chemicals can be detected in everything from breast milk and blood to body fat and muscles. However, it will anger the chemical industry, which believes the evidence against oestrogen mimickers remains slim.

Around 18,000 tons of nonylphenol is made in Britain annually out of a worldwide production of 360,000 tons. After it is added to the European hazardous chemicals list, producers will have to furnish member states with their private research on its effects, after which an action plan will be drawn up. This is expected to suggest the chemical be phased out and banned immediately for certain uses.

Britain will announce the move against nonylphenol at a meeting of the European Commission later this month, as well as funding to develop a simple test for screening chemicals for hormonal effects.

Oestrogen mimickers will also be on the agenda at the North Sea Conference at Esbjerg, Denmark, this week, where Mr Gummer will call for an international effort to assess the risks.



Gummer: calling for assessment of risks

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A21

Elite colleges dropped from sports revival plan

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

THE centrepiece of the Prime Minister's plans to invigorate school sport, the establishment of the first state sports college, has been dropped from government proposals to be published next month.

A White Paper covering school, college and university sport, as well as broader provision for young, elite athletes, is in the final stages of preparation. But public spending constraints and practical difficulties have forced the National Heritage Department to scale down its plans.

The specialist colleges, which were seen as training grounds for a new generation of British champions, have been one of the main casualties. The Youth Sport Trust was to have brought in high-profile sponsors and administered a network of a dozen schools initially. But ministers decided that the scheme would not have sufficient national impact, and put the widening of participation above providing facilities for a limited number of high-fliers.

Instead, the proposals will

lay down guidelines for schools on a "core" of sports that should be available and the time that should be devoted to them. Schools will be required to publish details of their sporting activities and will be encouraged to forge links with local clubs.

The package will bear little resemblance to the proposals put forward by Iain Sproule, the Sports Minister, more than a year ago. He wanted all schools to offer five competitive games, stay open an extra ten hours a week to make more time for sport, and pay teachers about £500 a year for additional responsibilities.

Both Gillian Shephard and John Patten, her predecessor as Education Secretary, have resisted any increase in curriculum time devoted to physical education after promising teachers a five-year moratorium on further change. Having failed to secure the money necessary to fund the teachers' pay award, Mrs Shephard has been equally reluctant to support extra payments for coaching.

The details of the package

have been the subject of extended wrangling in Whitehall. The inclusion of sports results in the Government's school league tables, for example, was blocked by the Education Department.

John Major warned guests at a charity luncheon earlier this week that his crusade to restore sport to the heart of school life would be a slow process. But he held out the prospect of a boost for school sport from the National Lottery.

The Sports Council will announce more than a dozen grants to schools from Lottery proceeds today. Bath University has already received £2.66 million for a new swimming pool and indoor tennis complex, and several schools will receive hundreds of thousands of pounds in the new allocation. But Lottery funds are limited to capital projects and cannot be spent on coaching.

Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers, said he was disappointed that the proposals seemed unlikely

to have great impact. "If the Prime Minister is serious about getting sport back into schools he must clear away the clutter that takes so much of teachers' time and pay them to put in extra time. Anything else is just tinkering."

But Nigel Hook, the head of technical services at the Central Council of Physical Education, said: "We are greatly encouraged that the Prime Minister has the issue of youth sport high on his list of priorities. We have suggested a number of measures, including better training for student teachers, financial incentives for sports clubs and a moratorium on the sale of school playing fields, which we hope will be adopted."

The time devoted to school sport has dropped by more than a third in the past five years, according to a survey by the Secondary Heads Association. The decline set in during disputes over teachers' pay and conditions in the mid-1980s. British pupils now spend less time on physical education than those in 13 other European countries.



Roseanna Cunningham, left, new Scottish Nationalist MP for Perth and Kinross, took her seat yesterday after being welcomed by her colleague Margaret Ewing

Blair is facing rift over European policy

By JILL SHERMAN
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR Euro-sceptics challenged Tony Blair yesterday to reject the proposed European single currency and to halt any moves to give further powers to Brussels.

Mr Blair's hopes of a united front over Europe were dashed when a group of rebel MPs led by Peter Shore called on the Labour leader to abandon his pro-European approach and to start "rolling back the frontiers of the emerging European state".

The Labour Euro-Safeguards Campaign presented its agenda yesterday for the inter-governmental conference on the European Union next year. It calls on Labour to veto any moves to strengthen the European Parliament, prevent weakening of the national veto and resist changes to the weighting mechanism governing qualified majority voting. It also wants Labour to support Britain's opt-out from a single currency.

The group's paper follows a report from Labour MEPs last week, agreed by Mr Blair, which called for a weakening of the national veto and much greater powers for the European Parliament. Mr Blair also made clear last week that he was prepared to extend qualified majority voting in certain areas.

The Euro-sceptic group, which includes Austin Mitchell, MP for Great Grimsby, and Dennis Davies MP for Llanelli, says it will harden its campaign against a federal Europe. Mr Shore, a veteran Euro-sceptic who campaigned against membership of the Common Market 20 years ago, said: "We intend to alert the public to the real dangers of rule by a Federal European State." He particularly objected to the continued transfer of decision-making powers to Europe and the supremacy of EU law. "This is not self-government - it is alien rule."

Mr Shore, who at the next election is standing down as MP for Great Grimsby, says the party has a "range of strong opinions" between the pro-Europeans and the Euro-sceptics. He believes that many in the middle have no idea of the implications of ceding more power to Europe. Mr Blair's office would not comment on the new campaign yesterday.

Labour trouble makers warned

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR leaders warned senior backbenchers yesterday to avoid waging cross-party war over plans to reform Commons rules on MPs' outside earnings.

Labour MPs who want to sit on the Commons committee that will consider the Nolan proposals have been told that political point-scoring would damage the chances of new rules being introduced this year. Party business managers interviewing candidates yesterday said they would bar any MP who might try to make political capital by focusing attention on Tory MPs' outside paid work. "This must go through quickly and we must not be involved in any cross-party bickering," a front-bench spokesman said.

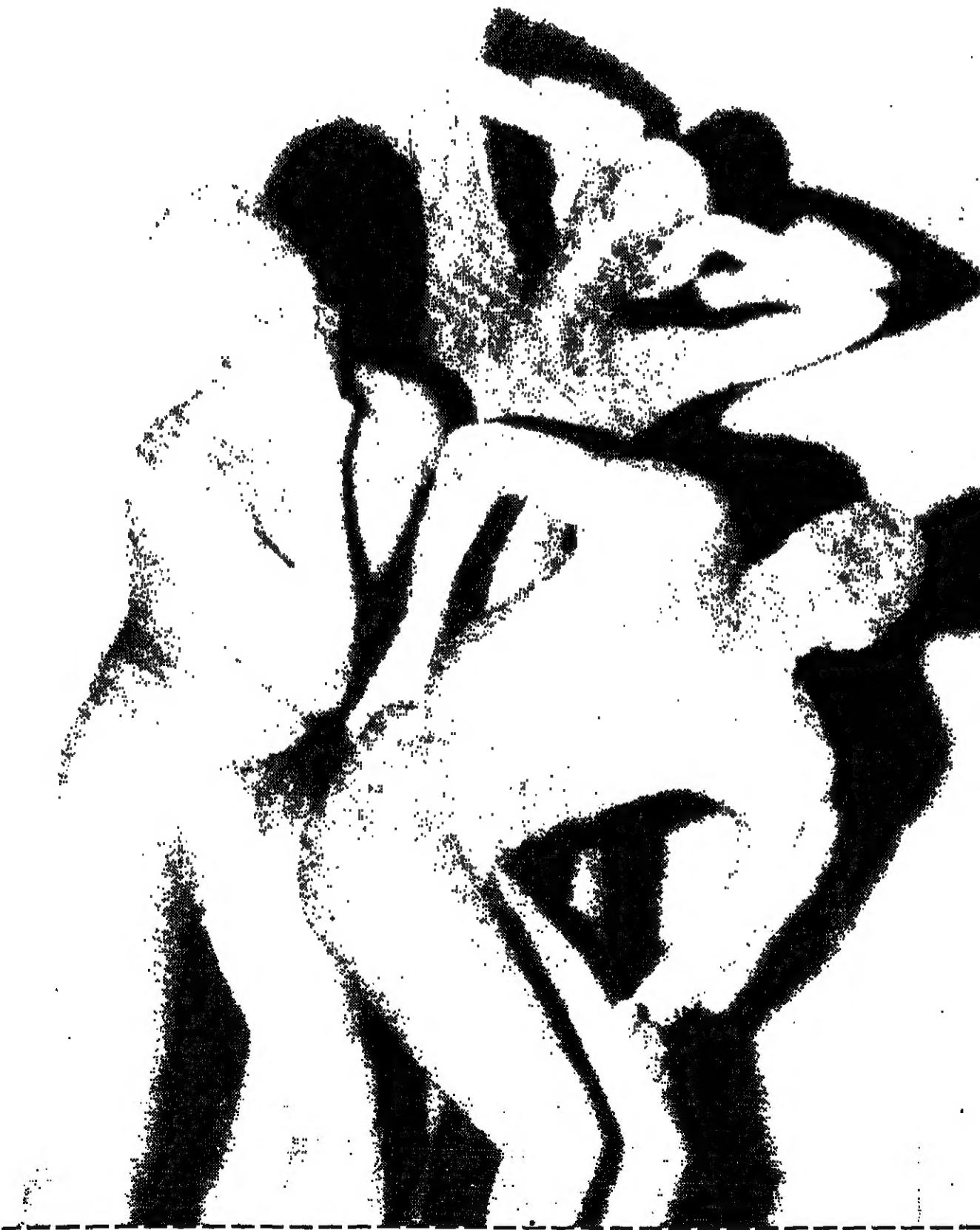
The committee will comprise four Labour MPs, five Tories and a Liberal Democrat.

IN PARLIAMENT

YESTERDAY in the Commons questions to defence ministers and the Prime Minister were followed by a statement on the film industry and a debate on the Crown Agents Bill. In the Lords debate on the Gas Bill. TODAY in the Commons: from 10am, backbench debates starting

with government policy towards housing. From 2.30pm, questions to Foreign Office ministers will be followed by a debate on the Criminal Justice (Scotland) Bill. In the Lords: debate on a call for an independent inquiry into funding of political parties.

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Inquiry clears Government of leaking Scott report

By Nigel Williamson, Whitehall Correspondent

A WHITEHALL inquiry into the unauthorised publication of Sir Richard Scott's draft criticisms of William Waldegrave concluded yesterday that there was no evidence that the leak had come from within the Government.

Sir Robin Butler, the Cabinet secretary, reached that conclusion after a series of informal checks to see how many copies were received and distributed within Whitehall. Later a Downing Street spokesman said: "The Government does not benefit from this leak. The inquiry does not benefit and the Government does not want to discredit the inquiry."

However, there will be no wider-ranging formal inquiry to identify the mole. John Horgan, the Public Services Minister, said: "This could come from the inquiry itself, it could have come from anywhere. Who knows? Usually inquiries into leaks are totally fruitless."

The Government's protestations of innocence did not convince sections of the Opposition that a Machiavellian plot had been orchestrated by Whitehall to discredit the procedures and soften the ultimate impact of the final report. Lord Richard, the Labour leader in the House of Lords, said: "Clearly now there is a serious attempt being made by senior supporters of the Government to discredit the Scott inquiry."

"I think it is absolutely appalling. I think the Government are frankly wriggling, they are prevaricating. It is really not the way a government ought to behave."

It also emerged that Scott officials had written on Monday to Tony Hall, head of current affairs at the BBC, begging the corporation not to broadcast the story after they had been alerted to the leak by Mr Waldegrave's legal team.

Some supporters of Mr

Waldegrave were last night critical that Sir Richard did not seek an injunction to prevent the broadcast.

At Westminster last night, many believed that Mr Waldegrave had done well out of the leak. Tory MPs were rallying behind him and many felt the sting has been drawn from the criticisms. Had the final report in the autumn come without any advance leak, the view is that Mr Waldegrave would have had no choice but to resign. "That may still happen but at least he has got his reputation in first," one Tory MP said.

Mr Waldegrave's parliamentary private secretary, Oliver Heald, strongly denied that either he or Mr Waldegrave was responsible for the leak as part of an attempt to undermine the inquiry's credibility.

Mr Waldegrave's supporters believe that the leak came from someone who fears the first draft is going to be watered down and wanted the original version in the public domain to embarrass the Government.

The circulation of the draft report has been limited. Those criticised in the report have been sent the paragraphs relating to their involvement, but not the rest of the draft.

Therefore, apart from Scott officials, the leaked sections which the BBC obtained were circulated to Downing Street, the Cabinet Office, the Foreign Office, Mr Waldegrave personally plus Alan Clark and Lord Trefgarne, the two other former ministers involved in the change of policy on guidelines on exports to Iraq in 1988.

Sir Richard said yesterday that the leak was regrettable and should never have been used but there would be no internal inquiry. "The leak did not come from this office."

Leading article, page 19

Classic fuss with loud rather than lasting impact

The Scott inquiry has all the ingredients of a classic parliamentary and media fuss — with its mixture of Middle East arms deals, alleged misleading of Parliament, a zealous judge and a leak by the BBC of a draft report criticising a minister. There is plenty for political moralists to feed upon. Yet in the end it is much ado about very little and is considerably less important, either to most voters or intrinsically, than the Nolan report.

It plays to the worst aspects of the Westminster village. Indignation is in inverse proportion to significance. The current row is similar to the Westland affair of early 1986 which claimed two Cabinet ministers but was largely forgotten by the time of the general election less than 18 months later. Robin Cook is a past master at inflating such ballons of protest. And, in an irrelevant attempt to shoot the messenger, Tory MPs yesterday criticised the BBC for using part of the draft. Although no one should judge William Waldegrave on the basis of a leak, it was a legitimate news story. The debate which Lord Howe has stirred about the Scott inquiry's methods is more pertinent. It is nonsense to suggest that anyone who shares his doubts is part of a Whitehall orchestrated whispering campaign against the inquiry.

But all that is secondary. The Scott inquiry is really about two technical matters: the Whitehall machinery for processing intelligence in the operation of non-statutory guidelines on arms sales and the scope of public interest immunity certificates in the treatment of evidence in criminal cases. Public evidence of the inquiry showed that the handling of intelligence did not work properly, while there was a change in the interpretation of the guidelines on sales of equipment after the end of the Iran-Iraq war. Ministers may have been less than candid in their answers, but on the evidence so far, not so as to justify allegations of a great scandal.

Similarly, on public immunity certificates, the general interpretation of their use by

the courts has changed since Sir Nicholas Lyell invoked them in the Matrix Churchill trial. There is also a question of proportion. These export guidelines did not loom large in the life of the ministers concerned, let alone the Government. Senior ministers and officials are worried that the Scott report may magnify minor distinctions.

In practice, much will depend on Lord Justice Scott's language. What one judge might describe as a difference of interpretation could be presented by another as deliberate deception. Such nuances enabled the Thatcher Government to turn to advantage the main conclusion of the Franks report into the circumstances leading up to the Argentine invasion of the Falkland Islands, even though much of the earlier argument had been highly critical. John Major may be less fortunate with Scott.

The immediate noise from the Scott report could be larger than its lasting impact. Just as a central recommendation of the Franks report was about the chairmanship of the joint intelligence committee (quietly reversed a couple of years ago), so the Scott report is likely to recommend detailed changes in intelligence appraisal which will soon be forgotten.

More important is whether the Nolan recommendations are really accepted. These have far-reaching implications not just for MPs and parliamentary self-regulation but also for appointments to quangos and the conduct of ministers and civil servants. The Government has said it agrees with the broad thrust of the latter, though the Nolan committee should keep a close eye on the detail. If these changes are fully implemented, British public life will be altered far more than by any changes to internal Whitehall mechanisms being considered by the Scott inquiry. It is time to remember what really matters.

PETER RIDDELL



Genuine 'toff' is forced to fight for his honour

By Alice Thomson, Political Reporter

THERE are certain qualities that are not in dispute between the friends and enemies of the Rt Hon William Waldegrave. In an era when "toff" and "grandee" are lightly used to describe any Tory MPs whose fathers went to university and had inside loots, the Agriculture Minister is seen as one of the last genuine silver spoon articles.

He is the younger son of the 12th Earl Waldegrave, who died last month. His ancestors have governed since the 14th century and he is the only Cabinet minister with whom the Prince of Wales is said to feel totally at ease.

His academic career was also precocious and indisputable. Now 48, he formed his first beliefs at the age of six against Nye Bevan and in favour of Aristotle. Edmund Burke and hanging. He won a scholarship to Eton and to Corpus Christi College, Oxford, was President of the Union and won a scholarship to Harvard and a fellowship to All Souls. His first was so brilliant that when he walked on to the stage to collect his parchment the dons all applauded. He soon became a

member of the Downing Street policy unit and head of then Opposition leader Edward Heath's office.

Other listed assets include his wife Caroline, who runs the Prue Leith cookery school and with whom he plays bridge and tennis, drives his classic cars and looks after their four children.

He entered the Commons as MP for Bristol West in 1979 alongside John Major, Chris and John Patten and Douglas Hogg — the so-called blue-chip group — and rose quickly, although he was a known wet, as under-secretary at education and science, then environment, then at the Foreign Office, before joining the Cabinet as Health Secretary under Mr Major.

Before he became an MP he posed outside No 10 for an article on future Prime Ministers. But even before this week's devastating charges that he misled colleagues over the arms-for-Iraq affair, it was clear that his career had leveled out.

After a near-disastrous performance during the 1992 General Election campaign as Health Secretary, Mr Walde-

grave was seen as a gaffer who demoted to a policy little room in the Cabinet Office and given responsibility for the Citizen's Charter, Public Service and Science. There he astonished everyone by saying that ministers were allowed to mislead the Commons and avoid telling MPs the whole truth "in exceptional circumstances". He was moved quickly to agriculture.

His enemies cite his aloofness, his political naivety, his intolerance of intellectual inferiority and his unwillingness to bloody his nose in political catfights. He is accused of treating politics as though it were a debate on ancient jurisprudence and once declared himself uneasy with the fact that Mr Major did not go to university.

His friends, who include senior ministers such as Douglas Hurd, say it would be a deep irony if the career of this most honourable patrician politician ended in disgrace for lying to the Commons, and are relieved that yesterday Mr Waldegrave finally jettisoned his silk gloves, climbed into the ring and started to fight.

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By JOEL BRAND IN SARAJEVO AND OUR FOREIGN STAFFS

Alain Juppé, the French Prime Minister, told parliament yesterday that the Bosnian Serbs had entered a "suicidal impasse" by holding more than 250 UN soldiers, including more than 100 Frenchmen. M Juppé demanded the immediate and unconditional release of all

UN sources said they were not aware of any deal "behind our backs" but said the possibility could not be ruled out. Greece is a member of Nato and shares its Orthodox faith with Serbs. Reports of an imminent release came after a visit by Karolos Papoulias, the Greek Foreign Minister, and Gerasimos Arsenis, the Defence Minister, to Pale, the Serb stronghold ten miles east

This is reminiscent of the shadowy deals surrounding hostage-takings and releases in Beirut in the late 1980s. Like Hezbollah, it was never clear exactly to what degree President Assad of Syria was responsible for their release and to what degree he was responsible for their abductions. Grateful Western countries are unlikely to press the issue with Mr Milosevic.



FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

General Ronald Fogelman, the US Air Force Chief of Staff, said that faint distress signals have been picked up from the ground, indicating that the unidentified pilot could still be alive. There were reasons for optimism that he may have

The weak signals, heard at half-hour intervals, were consistent with procedures taught to every pilot during survival training about how to call for help. The air force was said to have determined that the signals came from a battery-powered, portable beacon supplied to pilots as part of their survival equipment. An-

and the sophisticated tracking and eavesdropping devices on Awacs planes that accompany Nato missions over Bosnia.

□ Sarajevo: Bosnian Serbs told an American television reporter yesterday that they had not captured the missing pilot, but were looking for him. (Reuters)

Andrei Kozvrev, the Russian Foreign Minister, at the Foreign Office yesterday for the exchange of busts of Churchill and Marshal Zhukov

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT AND MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

Under current plans it will take 30 days for the 5,500-man brigade to be deployed to Bosnia ready for operations, once the United Nations Security Council approves the sending of reinforcements. It is not clear when the second brigade, the multinational one, to be commanded by a French officer, will be ready to go.

British defence sources admitted that success would depend on the consent of the warring parties in

Nato officials yesterday examined ways of providing close air support for

Carl Bildt, leader of the Conservative opposition in Sweden, is likely to be nominated by European leaders on Friday as the successor to Lord Owen, the European Union negotiator on former Yugoslavia. Mr Bildt had talks on Monday with Mr Hurd and Mr Rifkind, and today he will meet President Chirac in Paris.

Some senior US Air Force officers reportedly are pressing for a robust retaliation to deter further Serb attempts to shoot down Nato planes. This would target not just Serb missile batteries but also supply depots and artillery emplacements. *The Wall Street Journal* reported yesterday. However, other well-placed sources said that these officers

The Pentagon is ordering 3,500 airborne army troops and 100 attack and transport helicopters from Germany to Italy to assist in an emergency evacuation of the 22,000 United Nations peacekeepers from Bosnia should the UN Protection Force mission collapse.

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Kohl prepared to delay Maastricht review until 1997

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN AND EDWARD OWEN IN MADRID

HELMUT KOHL, the German Chancellor, favours delaying the start of the Maastricht follow-up conference until 1997 because of the potentially disruptive effects of the British general election campaign, according to reports from his entourage.

Herr Kohl is travelling in the Middle East but his mind appears to be on Europe, before the German summer holiday. German newspapers yesterday cited delegation circles — a formula for an off-the-record briefing by the Chancellor or his top foreign policy adviser — by saying that the 1996 conference could begin at the start of 1997 and be concluded at a summit in the early summer.

The idea has been circulating in Bonn for some time but gained new focus by recent meetings of the Chancellor with John Major, the Prime Minister, and the Labour leader, Tony Blair. This has brought home the fact that Europe will be part of the electoral battle in Britain at a critical point in the inter-governmental conference.

An added advantage of such a postponement would be that the Netherlands will have the chair of the European Union in the first half of 1997. Recent talks between Herr Kohl and the Dutch Prime Minister, Wim Kok, made clear that Germany wanted The Netherlands, in broad sympathy with most of Germany's European

aims, to handle the conference from beginning to end. The ruling Christian Democrats' chief European strategist, Kai-Lamers, told an interviewer yesterday that France and Germany should make the running in European integration. Asked whether Britain should not be drawn more closely into Bonn's European strategy, Herr Lamers replied: "In the



Aznar worried over Madrid's weakness

final analysis, Britain will be convinced only by facts. That is why we have to advance with Paris towards a federal Europe. That in turn means we have to draw the Mediterranean region more into the policies of the European Union. But that is anyway in our own interest."

Another worry for Herr Kohl, with just over three

weeks before Spain takes over the EU presidency, is the struggling Spanish Government's ability to draft the agenda for the inter-governmental conference in time. At present Felipe Gonzalez, the Spanish Prime Minister, doubts that it can be completed by December. José María Aznar, leader of the Centre-Right Popular Party that defeated the ruling Socialists for the first time in local elections last month, yesterday became the latest Spanish figure to voice his concern over the conference agenda.

He asked how Señor Gonzalez and his ministers could chair the review of Maastricht when his Government had failed to meet the treaty's objectives, and was unable to take the tough economic measures required because an election also loomed in Spain.

"Spain needs a strong government at the moment to tackle the growing deficit and inflation and must introduce labour reforms," he said. "Now, faced with the Spanish presidency, faced with the expansion of Europe, it is evident that the institutions must be reformed, and it is obvious it will be a long process."

□ Bonn: Herr Kohl's wife, Hannelore, suffered whiplash in an accident on a rain-soaked autobahn, forcing her to cancel ten days of appointments and remain at home, officials said yesterday. (AP)



Five young Germans from Bocholt, near Essen, are in Halle to try to beat the world record of 31ft 9½in for a beer-mat tower. They will need 80,000 mats

Ex-minister arrested in Rome

Rome: Antonio Gava, a former Interior Minister and once one of Italy's most powerful politicians, was arrested yesterday for alleged corruption, the second time that he has been detained in the past nine months.

The police arrested Signor Gava, a Christian Democrat Interior Minister from 1988 to 1991, at his home in Rome at the request of prosecutors in Torre Annunziata, south of Naples.

Signor Gava, 64, who has diabetes, was taken to the Regina Coeli jail and is expected to be admitted to the prison hospital. He is accused of extorting a 300 million lire (£115,000) bribe for awarding a contract to rebuild a hospital destroyed in an earthquake in southern Italy. (Reuters)

Germany 'to try US neo-Nazi'

Bonn: German authorities were confident yesterday they would soon be able to put on trial the American neo-Nazi publisher, Gary Lauck, chief supplier of far-right propaganda to sympathisers in Germany (Roger Boyes writes).

A district court in Roskilde, Denmark, approved a German request to extradite the publisher, 41, whose material allegedly breaks German laws on publishing and distributing neo-Nazi literature.

Pollution puts 30 in hospital

Athens: Thirty people were taken to hospital yesterday after hot weather and traffic jams sent pollution levels soaring, the Greek Environment Ministry said. Temperatures reached 30°C (86°F) in the capital and a trolleybus strike brought more cars than usual on to the streets, sending nitrogen dioxide levels sharply upwards. The count reached 374 milligrams per cubic metre of air, almost double the alert threshold. (AFP)

Grass 'was to critic unification'

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

GÜNTER GRASS, Germany's leading novelist, has launched a fresh broadside against unification in his new novel.

Advance copies of *A Wide Field* (*Ein Weites Feld*, Steidl Verlag, Göttingen) were sent to critics this week and although it is not published until August, the book is already causing a stir. From the outset, Grass has been opposed to the current form of German unification.

Anschütz remained a powerful argument against unification, he said. "One of the preconditions for the terrible things that happened was a strong, unified Germany." Germany should have moved gradually towards a confederation that acknowledged the identity of East Germany.

These views stung politicians on Left and Right. The critics reacted with hostility to the novel *Call of the Toad*, with its warning against West German colonisation of the East.

Now, long before most people have even seen a copy of the new book, Grass is being fêted. The German view of unification seems to have shifted towards his ground.



Grass: novel praised before publication

Italian police seize militants linked to Algerian terrorism

FROM REUTERS IN ROME

ITALIAN police arrested 12 Islamic militants yesterday on suspicion of terrorist and other offences linked to the civil conflict in Algeria, Italian news agencies reported. Quoting official sources, they said that the

arrests were carried out in Naples, Rome, Milan and the northern city of Pavia on the orders of a Neapolitan magistrate after a year-long investigation.

All 12 were suspected of membership of an extremist group in Italy that was part of a European network linked to Islamic rebels fighting the

army-backed government in Algeria, the Ansa and Agf news agencies said. The 12 faced charges of forming a terrorist organisation, arms trafficking and producing counterfeit documents, they said.

The 12 were suspected of providing logistical support to the Algerian fundamentalist Islamic Salvation

Front (FIS) and the radical Islamic Armed Group, preparing extremist attacks and seeking recruits to fight in Algeria and Bosnia.

RAI public television, whose report described the 12 as FIS guerrillas, said the arrests were carried out by a special operations unit of the Carabinieri paramilitary police, but

the Carabinieri command centre in Naples and the public prosecutor's office in the southern port city would not comment on the reports.

Nine Italians, included seven seamen who had their throats slit last July, were among the nearly 80 foreigners who have been killed in Algeria in its civil strife.

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Cartel 'recruited Reagan official waging drugs war'

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

THE former American official responsible for bringing Colombian drug barons to justice was recruited by them to join their cocaine cartel, according to a new government indictment. Two former federal prosecutors in Florida were also alleged to have worked for the vastly profitable drugs network.

The indictments were striking allegations of the Colombian drug traffickers' power to corrupt those once dedicated to putting them behind bars.

The indictment focused on the world's largest cocaine ring based in the Colombian city of Cali, which is responsible for up to 80 per cent of America's supply of the drug. By one estimate, the cartel puts aside a fifth of its annual revenue, equivalent to \$6.5 billion, for domestic and international bribes.

Among those indicted were Michael Abbell, former chief of international affairs in the US Justice Department during President Reagan's war on drugs. He led the efforts to extradite the Colombian traffickers until his retirement in 1984, when he allegedly switched sides and began giving legal advice on how to avoid extradition to the suspects he had been pursuing.

According to the indictment, he went even further, crossing the line into illegality by inducing arrested members of the cartel not to implicate their bosses, by fabricating evidence to exonerate clients and by distributing drug money to arrested cartel members and their lawyers.

Mr Abbell's lawyer said the charges were outrageous and



Kerry: complained about Abbell's activities

an alarming infringement on the sanctity of lawyer-client relations. Mr Abbell, who is 55, is expected to surrender to the FBI today. His switch from prosecuting to helping the cartel was criticised seven years ago after he proposed to the Senate in Washington that the drug barons should face fewer legal restrictions in fighting extradition.

Senator John Kerry complained publicly that Mr Abbell was providing expertise to important cocaine traffickers that he had obtained while he was working for the Justice Department and was privy to the innermost workings of the American criminal justice system. But there was no evidence that Mr Abbell and the two former prosecutors, Donald Ferguson and Joel Rosenthal, worked for the cartel while still in their government jobs.

The trio were among six lawyers and 56 other people accused in the Miami indictment of participating in a

cocaine-smuggling plot of great complexity. Nearly half were in the United States and by yesterday 22 had been arrested. Mr Rosenthal and two other lawyers have pleaded guilty to helping cartel members to launder drug proceeds. Another lawyer allegedly arranged bail for cartel members, knowing that they would flee.

The case was described by Kendall Coffey, chief prosecuting lawyer for southern Florida, as the single most important prosecution ever against the Cali cartel. Lee Brown, President Clinton's anti-drugs "tsar", said that it was sad to see the level of alleged corruption uncovered, but a fantastic tribute to law enforcement's ability to send a message that no position was sacred.

A crucial lead in the federal investigation, known as Operation Cornerstone, came from a Florida vegetable broker who was convicted of distributing drugs for the cartel and sentenced to life in prison two years ago. His meticulous computer records formed the basis of the investigation.

Lawyers do not have a licence to be above the law, an official with the American Drug Enforcement Administration said, but the lure of cocaine money has seriously contaminated the legal profession in the drugs crossroads of Miami.

There, some lawyers who specialise in defending wealthy clients in drug-conspiracy trials are known as the "white-powder bar". Others who represent low-level smugglers are the "boat bar".

Reeve remains paralysed after neck bones repaired

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN NEW YORK

AFTER a successful operation to repair the broken bones in his neck, the Superman actor Christopher Reeve embarked on the long process of recovery yesterday knowing that he would probably never breathe or move unaided again.

Surgeons at the University of Virginia Medical Centre spent nearly seven hours on Monday reconstructing the shattered vertebrae at the base of his skull, using titanium wire and a fragment of bone from his hip. Reeve, 42, broke

his neck and injured his spinal cord after falling from a horse on May 27.

Doctors said the spinal fusion operation would enable Reeve to sit propped up in bed and use his head, but he remains paralysed from the neck down and breathing through a respirator.

"It went well, and he's doing well now," Dr John Jane, who led the surgical team, said after the operation.

Reeve has registered some feeling in his neck and chest

since the accident, indicating that his spinal cord was not severed, but doctors say it is still too early to say how much, if any, bodily movement he may regain.

The operation "will have no effect on rapidity of recovery. It's just preventing further damage," Dr Jane said.

The actor's best hope is that as the swelling subsides, reducing pressure on his spinal cord, he may recover further mobility and sensation in the upper part of his body.



Willie Cravin, one of two Simpson trial jurors dismissed by the judge yesterday, talks to reporters outside his home in Carson, California. Only two alternate jurors are left on the panel with months of testimony remaining

Simpson trial in danger of collapse but the literary sideshow thrives

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN NEW YORK

THE O.J. Simpson trial is tottering on the verge of collapse after Judge Lance Ito dismissed two more jurors, leaving just two other possible jurors and raising the prospect of a mistrial. In that case, the entire bizarre and costly process may start all over again.

Mr Simpson's defence lawyers appealed against the dismissal of a black male juror, claiming the prosecution was "systematically attempting to target African-American jurors for dismissal". A Hispanic woman was also removed from the jury.

Now in its fifth month, the trial has cost an estimated \$6 million (£3.7 million) so far and legal experts predict that with several months of testimony still to come there may not be enough jurors to complete the process. Ten members of the jury have been dismissed since the trial started in January.

Mr Simpson's lawyers plan to object to a retrial on the

ground that the former football star would face "double jeopardy", the constitutional rule protecting a defendant from being tried twice for the same crime.

As the trial becomes bogged down in legal minutiae and the jury disintegrates, the vast entertainment industry surrounding the legal drama is taking place in Los Angeles

continues to expand. The trial has provided US publishers with a bonanza — 12 books are out and at least a dozen more are in the works on every aspect of the case.

The trial may be costing Los Angeles taxpayers more than \$1 million a month to stage, but with some six million copies of O.J. books in print, publishers and booksellers

are reaping a fortune. The avalanche of print began just two weeks after the murders of Nicole Brown Simpson and her friend, Ronald Goldman, with the release of a "quickie" mass-market paperback, *O.J. Simpson: American Hero*, by American

Tragedy, which has sold more than half a million copies. This was immediately followed by *Fallen Hero*, from St Martin's Press, with sales of 250,000 and rising.

Even the most tenuous connection with the trial warrants a slim volume. Barbara Cochran Berry, former wife of Mr Simpson's lawyer Johnnie Cochran, is weighing in with a volume entitled *Life After Johnnie*. As Mrs Cochran's lawyer-agent told *The New York Times*: "Everyone and his dog is writing a book." Sure enough, Dove Books has been contacted by an author claiming to have made telephonic contact with Mr Simpson's pet dog, an Akita named Kato. The provisional title: *A Dog's Tale*.



The Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel's viewpoint

King of chat marks ten civil years

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN NEW YORK AND MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

LARRY KING marked a decade as America's most popular and polite television interviewer this week by hosting a typically non-confrontational fireside chat with Bill Clinton and Al Gore, the first time that the President and the Vice-President have been interviewed together.

That King was able to summon the two most powerful men in America to celebrate the tenth anniversary of his television show on Cable News Network is just the latest proof of the vast influence which he wields.

Politicians and celebrities, from Gerry Adams to Mikhail Gorbachev and Marlon Brando, head for King when they have something to say, or a view to promote.

Ross Perot chose the programme *Larry King Live* to launch his presidential bid, while in recent weeks every

Republican presidential hopeful has made the dutiful pilgrimage to his CNN studio in Washington. King's success is partly a result of the extraordinary, worldwide impact of the network, which reaches 200 countries and 150



King: reputation for gentle questioning

million households. However, critics say that his popularity among newsmakers is more a reflection of his meek and sometimes meaningless interviewing technique.

It is not hard to understand why President Clinton agreed to appear. He is gearing up for his 1996 re-election campaign, and King's reputation for lobbing gentle questions makes him every politician's favourite interviewer.

Mr Clinton was allowed to put the best possible gloss on his bewildering zig-zags over Bosnia. He boasted of the firm line he is taking against Japanese protectionism. He talked up the possibility of a US-brokered Middle East peace settlement, plugged his anti-terrorism Bill, called for speedier implementation of the death penalty, and claimed to have been speaking out against Hollywood sex and

violence long before Robert Dole, his likely Republican challenger, "politicised" the issue last week.

The hour-long event in the White House library, so full of potential, was interrupted five times for commercial breaks and four times by plugs for King's next interview with the singer Barbra Streisand.

Born Larry Zeiger in blue-collar Brooklyn, King has forged a durable television career,

but while his professional persona may be unruffled and relentlessly jovial, King's personal life has hardly been plain sailing. A heart attack, vast gambling debts that wrecked his early career and six marriages have left him with a healthy respect for the problems of others. "Larry has been married so often that he has scars from rice," a friend once remarked.

400 jumbo jet passengers in near-miss

FROM ROGER MAYNARD IN SYDNEY

A COCKPIT alarm almost certainly saved 400 passengers on a British Airways jumbo jet from a mid-air collision over the Australian outback.

The London-bound jumbo and a Qantas 737-400 airliner, which had just taken off from Alice Springs, passed within 400ft of each other on May 4, it emerged yesterday.

The Qantas jet radioed air traffic controllers for permission to climb to 33,000ft, taking it through the 747's flight path. An alarm sounded in the BA cockpit, prompting the British pilot to take evasive action.

A Melbourne air traffic controller is understood to have been suspended while the incident is investigated.

Californian Right returns to attack on illegal immigration

FROM GILES WHITTILL IN LOS ANGELES

A CONSERVATIVE lobby group has called for an end to automatic citizenship for children born to illegal immigrants on United States soil.

The 14th amendment to the American constitution is under attack from the Californian coalition that sponsored last year's Proposition 187, an attempt to deny state benefits to illegal immigrants. Pete Wilson, the Governor of California and a Republican presidential hopeful, has thrown his weight behind the initiative, according to reports yesterday. Though unlikely ever to become law, it is certain to be the focus of a signature-gathering campaign to force it on to next year's state ballot.

Known as Save Our State II, the initiative will be published shortly by Ron Prince, a founder of the conservative Save Our State coalition that drafted Proposition 187. The proposal, which has been condemned as an assault on the notion of America as an ethnic melting pot, has split the national Republican leadership. Phil Gramm, the Texas senator and candidate for his party's presidential nomination, attacked Mr Wilson's stand in a recent interview. "We ought to put a premium on people who can bring new skills and energy," he said. "I'm not ready to tear down the Statue of Liberty."

The debate on citizenship promises to be ferocious in California, where politics are permeated by racial tensions, with a steady influx of illegal immigrants from Mexico and Central America. Mr Prince

claims that the right to automatic citizenship was originally intended to protect children born to slaves in the Deep South — but is now being exploited by pregnant women who cross the border to give birth in American hospitals, thereby guaranteeing their children access to US healthcare and education.

The initiative, which would require a constitutional amendment of its own to become law, was designed to close "back door" to illegal immigration," Mr Prince added.

His critics say he wants to punish children for their parents' transgressions. "Children have no choice about who their parents are," the National Immigration Law Centre in Los Angeles said yesterday.

Dudayev unbowed by HQ fall

Moscow: General Dzhokhar Dudayev, the Chechen rebel leader, pledged yesterday to fight on against Russia despite the fall of his headquarters (Anatoli Lieven writes).

Chechens claimed yesterday to have recaptured Vedeno, which housed General Dudayev's base and had fallen to the Russians. This seemed unlikely, given the wooded and hilly area, but it was possible that the town is occupied by both sides.

Deng visit

Hong Kong: Deng Nan, a daughter of Deng Xiaoping, China's ailing paramount leader, said that her father, who is in his nineties, would visit Hong Kong after it reverts to Chinese rule in 1997.

Delhi inferno

Delhi: A huge fire wrecked hundreds of shops in Asia's largest plastics market here and spread to a residential area. Intense heat and acrid smoke thwarted firefighters searching for victims. (AFP)

Counted in

Manila: Nine allies and three foes of President Ramos of the Philippines were proclaimed winners of the May Senate vote after a 28-day manual count, ensuring him solid congressional support. (AFP)

Killer jailed

Johannesburg: The Supreme Court jailed Ntombeko Peni, 19, for 18 years for the murder of Arty Biehl, 26, an American student stabbed, stoned and beaten by a mob in Guguletu near Cape Town in 1993.

Burundians flee

Bejambara: Hundreds of people fled the district of Kamenge after Antoine Ndirwayo, the Burundian Prime Minister, said the Tutsi-dominated army was about to expel Hutu "terrorists". (AFP)

Bomb fails

Colombo: The international airport narrowly escaped being bombed as a van packed with explosives failed to detonate properly, police said, amid fears of more blast in the Sri Lankan capital. (AFP)

Tongue-tied

Brussels: Only 27 per cent of British and French officials in the European Union can speak more than one language, according to a new directory of EU politicians and civil servants. (Reuters)

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مكتبة الاسكندرية

Pretoria's prisoners sing at ban on hanging

FROM MICHAEL HAMLYN IN JOHANNESBURG

PRISONERS on death row burst into song yesterday as South Africa outlawed capital punishment, declaring it contrary to the new constitution, which guarantees a fundamental right to life.

The decision was unanimously agreed by the 11-man Constitutional Court, and cannot be taken to appeal. Any attempt to change the constitution, restoring the death penalty, would be struck down.

The decision was welcomed by Archbishop Desmond Tutu, head of the Anglican Church, and by Lawyers for Human Rights. The archbishop said that capital punishment "is such nonsense. Hardly anywhere in the world has it shown to be an effective deterrent, so I am thrilled." The lawyers' group declared: "Capital punishment is a degrading and inhumane form of punishment. South Africa was once known as the capital punishment capital of the world but now takes up its position as a pioneer of human rights in the international community. The court's decision emphasises a respect for life which we hope will

be of our nation," he said. However, President Mandela said he wished "to emphasise that this decision has no bearing on the commitment of the Government to tackle the problem of crime, and particularly violent crime, with all the resources and determination it can muster".

The 453 prisoners on death row broke into song and applause when the decision was announced on radio. Sue de Villiers, a spokeswoman for the Justice Ministry, said that the prisoners would be moved off death row immediately, and the appellate division of the courts would reconsider their sentences.

South Africa hanged 1,100 people between 1960 and 1993. Solomon Ngweni became the last person to be hanged on November 14, 1989.

From February 1990 there was a moratorium on executions, although death sentences continued to be passed for murder with aggravating circumstances. Eighty-eight people were sentenced to death in 1994.

The majority of those on death row are black, but two of the best known white occupants are Clive Derby-Lewis and Janusz Walus, sentenced for the murder of Chris Hani, the general secretary of the South African Communist Party, in April 1993. These two will also be able to take advantage of the Reconciliation Bill being debated in parliament, which establishes an amnesty commission for political offences committed before December 1993.

Workers' march: More than 100,000 people, organised by the African National Congress-aligned Confederation of South African Trade Unions, marched through central Johannesburg yesterday in protest at a new Labour Relations Bill. Their demands included a ban on management lockouts, the right to strike and central bargaining. The real motivation, however, was such a huge turnout was the feeling that, at long last, something has been done to fulfil the aspirations of the black majority. At least one marcher bore a placard reading: "Let's get South Africa working. Jobs, jobs, jobs."

Mr Mandela surprised the marchers by addressing them from the back of a lorry. He gave the demonstrators his support and blessed their efforts. While reminding them that the ANC had used the right to strike and demonstrate in its freedom struggle, he urged them to be disciplined.



Tutu: called capital punishment "nonsense".

over time, be reflected in society at large.

The decision was criticised by those who believed that hanging would help to keep the crime rate down. "We feel it gives out the wrong signal in a country where the crime rate is the highest in the world for a country not at war," said Danie Schutte, a former National Party minister, and now spokesman for the party on justice.

Simon Grindrod, the organiser of the pro-hanging Capital Punishment Campaign, maintained that the abolition of the death penalty would be a missed opportunity to combat the tidal wave of murder, threatening the very founda-



Oscar Ho, the exhibition director, peeking under the cardboard figleaf attached by official Hong Kong order to the Elisabeth Frink bronze of a nude man

Hong Kong cover-up hides little

Hong Kong: An attempt by the colony to censor an Elisabeth Frink sculpture of a male nude by fixing a cardboard figleaf over the genitals appeared to have backfired yesterday. The cut-out served to titillate rather than dampen interest, attracting a steady stream of visitors

who lifted the fake figleaf for a quick peep underneath. The cover-up of the work by the British artist, entitled *New Man*, followed a June 1 ruling by the Obscene Articles Tribunal. "It's unbelievable, it's so silly," said Oscar Ho, exhibition director at the Hong Kong Arts Centre, who

feared the ruling might lead to further cuts on artistic expression. The bronze is owned by a Hong Kong businessman, Woo Po-shing, who displayed it in the lobby of a Central business district building. The tribunal made its ruling after an anonymous complaint. (Reuters)

Generals join campaign to stop Golan handover

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN EL ROM, GOLAN HEIGHTS

ON THE eve of the latest shuttle diplomacy mission of Warren Christopher, the US Secretary of State, the campaign to sabotage his attempts to secure a peace deal involving Israel's evacuation of the occupied Golan Heights reached fever pitch yesterday. The fury of the settlers and many of the serving and reserve army officers who back their cause was whipped up by Shimon Peres, the Foreign Minister, who admitted publicly that any hopes of retaining any of the Zionist outposts built since 1967 had been abandoned.

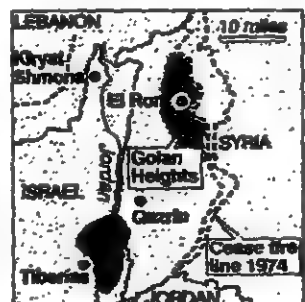
At El Rom, a kibbutz settlement only eight miles from the Syrian border, hundreds of settlers gathered at an emergency meeting called to protest at reports that the community of 300 Jews will be the first to be dismantled once a peace deal is completed.

Settlers gained heart from a subversive advertisement, opposing the return of the Golan Heights, printed in *The Jerusalem Post* and signed by 28 reserve army generals and one reserve commander.

Diplomats described it as evidence that many military units may refuse to obey

orders to evacuate the settlers. "The small size of the Golan Heights means that demilitarised areas and early warning systems, placed on the Golan Heights, would not neutralise a Syrian attack," said the generals. "The relinquishing by the Government of any part of the Golan Heights would amount to a serious gamble with the country's security."

The anger of the settlers, most of them former supporters of the ruling Labour Party,



has been deepened by a speech in which Yitzhak Rabin, the Prime Minister they despise, taunted them openly as cowards. "His insult was levelled just because we insist that any referendum involving a hand-

over of this strategic area to Syria should pass by a two-thirds majority, not the 51 per cent he is demanding," said Maria Van Meter, California-born and one of the organisers of the settlers' protest meeting held yesterday under the slogan "We are all El Rom".

So passionate is Mrs Van Meter about the cause that her son, nine, is named Golan, the lake so often shelled by Syrian gunners until the Heights were captured by Israel in 1967. The Golan Residents' Committee unveiled a hearts-and-minds campaign designed to convince Israeli voters that any withdrawal from the Golan could mean war, rather than the peace that the Labour-led Government is promising.

Propaganda weapons being used include the Internet and a fighting fund, with the slogan "Be a guardian of the Golan because the Golan guards you." Subscribers who contribute more than \$80 are to be presented with a coin commemorating the Golan town of Gama, whose Jewish defenders leapt off a cliff in AD 67 when it was overrun by the Romans.

Japan parties agree on war remorse

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN TOKYO

THE Japanese ruling coalition agreed last night to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the end of the Second World War with a parliamentary resolution that expresses Japan's deep remorse for the suffering it caused Asian nations.

The agreement represents a concession by coalition conservatives and averts a crisis in the Government of Tomichi Murayama, the Prime Minister. It also could soothe feelings in some Asian countries, especially South Korea and China, which feared that Japan might pass a resolution that depicted the war as one fought for noble motives and played down its invasion of the Asian mainland.

The key sentence of the resolution reads: "While giving thought to the many acts of colonial control and aggression that have occurred in modern world history, we recognise the acts of this kind carried out by our country in the past and the suffering that we caused the people of other countries, especially those of Asia, and we express our

feeling of deep remorse." After the draft was approved at a meeting of leaders of the coalition parties, one participant, Wataru Kubo, the deputy leader of the Socialists, said the resolution "captures the spirit... of what we have been aiming for."

However, Masakuni Mura-

kami, a leader of a group of right-wing MPs within the coalition's dominant Liberal Democratic Party and a former Labour Minister, said: "I cannot accept this."

Hawks have opposed an apology, saying that it would be an insult to the families of Japanese soldiers who died in

Keating launches crusade for new republic

FROM ROGER MAYNARD IN SYDNEY

PAUL KEATING, the Australian Prime Minister, today will launch a six-week campaign to sell his personal vision for a republic. But while his televised speech to the nation tonight will be strong on sentiment, it will also be weak on detail, judging by remarks made by the Labor leader yesterday.

Mr Keating made it clear that he will merely seek to ask Australians why the Queen should continue to be the head of state. The issue of presidential power, the prime concern of republicans and monarchists, could wait. "We want no more but to persuade Australians that their head of state and the head of state they bequeath to the Australians of the 21st century should be an Australian," he told a conference in Canberra. "Remarkably enough, there

"The head of state bequeathed to the Australians of the 21st century should be an Australian"

are some in a position of political leadership who find themselves unable to share this ambition or support us in our efforts."

By adopting such a basic approach to the republican question, the Prime Minister will sidestep the vexed and far more complicated issues surrounding the method of electing a head of state and the ensuing powers.

He is likely to reject the idea of a "people's convention" to achieve a national consensus, and will argue that the mechanics of a republic could be debated at a later date. There would be no early referendum, although the central point of whether an Australian should be head of state is likely to figure in the next general election, which is expected to be held later this year. "The seminal issue is whether this country is a country independent of itself, able to represent itself, or must its head of state be the monarch of another country?" Mr Keating said this week. "That's the critical issue, that's the issue the Government will be attending to first."

Such views will not please everyone, including many fellow republicans. Malcolm Turnbull, who attacked the Prime Minister last month for dragging his feet on the republican model, wants the Government to produce a more detailed proposal.

"The idea that you will be able to win a referendum without any definition of the powers of the new office is ridiculous," said Mr Turnbull, who is head of the Australian Republican Movement. "The fact is that people want to have a constitution they can read."

Mr Keating is expected to make it clear that he has no intention of standing to be head of state, thereby defusing speculation that his anti-monarchist views are influenced by presidential ambition. But he is also aware that the republican cause can be a useful vote-winner and a convenient distraction from the nation's more pressing economic problems.

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Scotland's tourism hopes are pinned on the mountains and glens of *Rob Roy*, says Magnus Linklater

When *Crocodile Dundee* became a hit movie in the United States nine years ago, the number of American tourists visiting Australia jumped by an astonishing 20 per cent. There was something about the craggy features of the hero, Paul Hogan, or perhaps it was the outback, or even the alligators, that caught the public imagination. The Australian Tourist Commission has never looked back.

It's a phenomenon that Scotland hopes can be repeated with the release of Hollywood's *Rob Roy* which, apart from Liam Neeson and Jessica Lange, features some breathtaking Highland scenery, several very satisfactory Scottish castles, and a general air of brooding mystery. Whether large numbers of American tourists want to picnic on the very spot where Rob Roy nearly strangled the wicked Archie Cunningham (Tim Roth), or to marvel at the spot where his brother Alasdair was

Hollywood hypes the Highlands

shot down by the Redcoats, remains to be seen; but the Scottish Tourist Board is sufficiently excited to have promoted the movie with an enthusiasm not normally associated with that cautious body.

It delayed the printing of all its 1995 brochures in order to include pictures of Neeson and Lange, with breathless quotes from both of them ("I thought this would be a place to live, to raise children" — Lange; "Rob Roy and his clans would have trudged these hills and these sunsets" — Neeson). It has even helped to finance a promotional film about the making of the movie, and has persuaded the distributors to include a caption which appears before the credits roll, saying: "Visit Rob Roy Coun-

try", with a convenient telephone number attached. Now it is waiting to see what happens.

It may be an advantage that *Rob Roy* itself has a promotional budget of \$20 million, which is more than half the amount spent annually by the STB on Scotland. But for a movie to succeed as a selling device, it has to project an atmosphere which fits the country it is set in. Lou Hammond, of Lou Hammond Associates, the American agency handling the Scottish tourist account, points out the importance of



Can Jessica Lange lure visitors to Scottish beauty spots?

what she calls "the destination-product". It was her agency which used *Crocodile Dundee* to put Australia on the map, but she concedes that not every film will work that way. *Midnight Express*, for instance, projected a "very

negative" image about Turkey, focusing as it did on prison conditions there. "You've got to have the right atmosphere and the right culture." In the case of *Rob Roy*, she says, "the stars are stellar and the spectacle glorious".

There is less confidence about the prospects of the next epic, *Braveheart*, starring Mel Gibson as William Wallace, largely because it is so anti-English, and England is an important source of tourist revenue; history can be very inconvenient sometimes.

The effect is dramatic. It often seems as if the location of a film or a television series exerts a more powerful attraction than the site of a genuine historical event. The set of Granada's *Coronation Street*, for instance, is among the top half-dozen tourist attractions in Britain, drawing far greater numbers than tread the battlefields of Naseby or Culloden Moor.

There is, perhaps, an element of the icon about all this, as if seeing "the place where they made the movie" transfers some special quality to the visitor, like going to Lourdes. The telephone box in *Local Hero* — near the Morayshire coastal town of Penan — still draws hundreds of visitors. The village of Plockton in Wester Ross has become a place of pilgrimage

ever since the making of *Hamish Macbeth*, a series about a Highland cop. The Alton Hotel in Birmingham, where they shot the Scottish wedding in *Four Weddings and a Funeral*, is now permanently booked up.

It all seems harmless enough, and goodness knows Scottish tourism needs all the help it can get. For a country which boasts some of the most beautiful landscapes in the world, it has performed poorly against the international competition, with numbers of visitors dropping in recent years. Clearly Scotland has not encouraged enough movies promoting the "destination-product".

I suggest a remake of *Kidnapped*, "set in Scotland's glorious western Highlands", or alternatively *The 39 Steps* — "follow the trail of Richard Hannay and stay in four-star comfort on the way". Or why not *Ben Hur*, "where the scenery stays you"? I think we've only just begun.



Concluding a controversial history of Churchill at war

A final countdown to the Cold War

The Yalta summit of Churchill,

Roosevelt and Stalin ended a crucial alliance, says John Charmley

The strongest message of Churchill's leadership is that appeasing people is wrong, and Russia is particularly reprehensible. However, it rather looked as though the Big Three conference at Yalta in January 1945, with Churchill, Stalin and Roosevelt, was a particularly obvious example of just such a practice.

An early excuse for pandering to Stalin was the "sick Roosevelt" gambit, which Churchill himself employed to some effect. No one who saw Roosevelt at Yalta could be in any doubt that he was a very sick man. But it was not sickness which prevented the President from being able to get all that he would have wanted at Yalta — it was reality. For the Americans, Yalta was at least as much about preventing the undesirable happening as it was about getting positive results. Here the British were the weak link. If the British were allowed to pursue their plans for a Western European bloc, this would encourage the Russians to do the same in Eastern Europe, which would help undermine the United Nations concept, as well as alien-

ating American public opinion. It was, therefore, essential to promote "understanding between Great Britain and Russia".

To a very large extent the conference was an American success. Britain and the Soviets signed a declaration on liberated Europe, and the Soviets dropped their insistence on having 16 seats on the United Nations Security Council (one for each of their republics). Stalin even promised to join the war against Japan once the Germans were defeated. Plans were agreed to discuss the future of Germany and reparations. But agreement was not accomplished without cost to the Anglo-American relationship.

Roosevelt's main interest was the question of the "international security organisation". Stalin seemed divided between thinking that the UN might provide peace guarantees and fear of it being used to gang up on Russia. Roosevelt strove to reassure the Soviet leader. For the American leader, no part of the conference was more important than this, and when, later, Poland was discussed, it is hard not to believe that FDR was not influenced by the desire

to assuage Stalin's fears. The problem with Poland was that both Churchill and Stalin regarded it as "essential", but for quite different reasons. For the British, it was, as Churchill stated on several occasions with grandiloquent eloquence, a matter of honour. Here Churchill could not quite make up his mind what would satisfy "honour". He concentrated on the need to save the "face" of the émigré Poles in London, but everything he said also suggested that it was Britain's "face" — and his own — which needed saving.

Twice in the past 30 years Poland had been a "corridor" for an enemy attacking Russia, so the Soviets had an obvious interest in a "strong" Poland. On February 7, Stalin made explicit the link between this, his highest priority, and FDR's, the United Nations. The evening before, after consultation with Churchill, FDR had suggested to Stalin that they should summon assorted Polish notables and get them to agree on a government which the Big Three would guarantee. But at the start of the session, Stalin said that they should move on and discuss the voting arrangements for the Security Council. Having thus unobtrusively linked the Polish question with Roosevelt's highest priority, Stalin announced that he would accept the American voting formula, dropping the demand for 16 seats on the Security Council. It was a clever move.

By now the Soviets were ready to table their suggestions about Poland, including recognition of the puppet Government in Warsaw. Churchill launched into one of his oratorical flights, saying that if they left Yalta still recognising

two Polish Governments, one in Warsaw, the other in London, then it would be apparent to everyone that "fundamental differences existed between Russian and their British and American allies". This would "stamp the conference with the seal of failure".

But the problem was, as Churchill tacitly acknowledged, that there were fundamental differences between the Allies. "Honour", the main demand that the 150,000 Poles who had fought with the Allies should not be abandoned and that their Government could not just be disowned. FDR, speaking as a "visitor from another hemisphere", stressed the need for early elections. Both Churchill and Roosevelt settled for Stalin's assurance that elections could be held within a month. Speaking on the fortieth anniversary of the Yalta conference, President Reagan blamed its failure on "the Soviet promises that were not kept, the elections that were not held, the two halves of Europe which have remained apart".

But what promises did the Soviets not keep? Stalin had made Soviet war aims plain from 1939 onwards. Both Churchill and Roosevelt had shown themselves willing to grant him what he wanted.

Winston talked of honour — but whose honour was it?

After all, the Soviets had every right to expect some reward for winning the war. It is hard not to draw the conclusion that Churchill was seizing upon a pretext for a showdown with the Soviets. It was true that they did not hold an election in Poland, but the British had not held one in Greece; indeed, they had intervened there by force. Nor had there been an election in France, nor was there to be one in Belgium and The Netherlands before the end of the war in Europe. The fact was that Churchill applied a different set of standards to the Soviets than he did to himself.

It was here that the lessons of Munich became relevant. Much to his displeasure, Churchill soon found himself attacked in Parliament, with the sort of arguments he had once employed against Chamberlain. His response to his critics was to use Poland as a "hook" to keep the Americans in Europe. The time had come to cash in the large pile of chips which his long cultivation of the Americans had given him. To this there was one obstacle: Roosevelt.

Roosevelt had made it clear ever since Tehran that he was not going to enter some exclusive special relationship with the British. For him, the British Empire was as much to be deplored as Soviet commu-

nism, and there are no signs that he was willing to do what Churchill wanted, which was to use burgeoning American power to prevent the Soviets dominating Europe.

In the ten days after March 8, Churchill urged Roosevelt to take a firmer line with the Soviets. In so doing he manoeuvred himself into a position from which he could only win. If FDR accepted his advice, there would be the sort of concerned Anglo-American front which FDR had fought so hard to avoid. If this forced Stalin to back down, all would be well. If it did not have this result, at least Churchill had acted consistently with the lessons of Munich and his domestic critics would be silenced.

Roosevelt tried hard to avoid presenting Stalin with an Anglo-American front. But faced with Churchill's persistence he eventually agreed to "separate but identical" messages which reiterated the British goals of introducing democratic elements into the Polish Government, sending Western observers to Poland, and holding free elections. The result was exactly what FDR had feared, namely a Soviet rejection. Churchill seized the opportunity to launch a full-scale bid for American support against Stalin.

To those who take the view (usually with hindsight) that the Soviets were thirsting to start the Cold War, the President's actions can be explained away as those of a sick and dying man, but they were, in fact, entirely of a piece with his attitude towards the Soviets throughout the war. Roosevelt's eyes were firmly fixed on the forthcoming San Francisco conference of the United Na-

tions. In his last address to the nation on March 1 he had sought to warn his fellow Americans that although the final peace would rest on the principles of the Atlantic Charter, they could not expect to get everything they wanted. He had cited the agreement over Poland as an example of one of those occasions when neither party had got everything it wanted. The important thing was the UN.

In what was to be his penultimate exchange with Churchill on April 12, his tone of voice came through in characteristic manner: "I would minimise the general Soviet problem as much as possible, because these problems, in one form or another, seem to arise every day and most of them straighten out."

Here was the man who believed in creative procrastination as a method of governing.

At 1.15pm on April 12, Roosevelt complained of a "terrible headache". Three and a half hours later his doctors pronounced him dead. With his death there passed the last exponent of a diplomacy subtle enough to maintain the co-operation of the Soviet Union. Henceforth the cruder methods which Churchill dignified with the term "superior statecraft" would prevail: the true exponent of the art had passed from the scene, leaving no worthy successor.

● Churchill's Grand Alliance — The Anglo-American Special Relationship 1940-57, is published on June 15 by Hodder & Stoughton, price £20.
© John Charmley 1995

Did Churchill sell out Britain to America?

AT THE *Times/Dillons* debate on July 11, which marks the publication of Churchill's *Grand Alliance*, by Dr John Charmley, the author will argue that Churchill's faith in a special relationship with America was misplaced. Alan Clark, the historian and politician, will support Dr Charmley. Lord Blake, author of the authoritative history of the Conservative Party, and Andrew Roberts, author of *The Eminent Churchillians*, will oppose.

The forum will be held at Church House, Great Smith Street, Westminster, London SW1, on Tuesday, July 11 at 7.30pm. Tickets at £10 each (concessions £7.50), which includes £2 off the price of Dr Charmley's book, are available by ringing 071-955 6636, by faxing 071-955 6636, or by sending the coupon, with your remittance, to Dillons the Bookstore, 82 Gower Street, London WC1E 6BQ, where tickets can also be purchased.

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Make less look more when you go away by keeping colours simple, lines uncluttered and the fabric supple

Easy rules for holidays



Fashion in the 1990s is always being accused of not having found its look. Designers are berated for lifting images from the past, patchworking them together and calling it "new". But what makes fashion in the 1990s truly modern is a blurring of the rules.

"There are no longer formal or casual clothes. No longer beach or town clothes," the designer Betty Jackson says. "I design clothes which go from one situation to another seamlessly, simply by the way you wear them."

Jackson believes that continental women have long approached fashion in this way. "When they go on holiday they still wear proper clothes, they just put them together in a different way."

Versatility and simplicity appear to be the keys to a holiday wardrobe. The designer Caroline Charles calls it "minimal chic". Charles likes to travel with little more than hand luggage. "I wear only black and cream, so I don't have to worry about things not working together."

"Keep the colour statement simple," Jackson says. "Black and white is great because everything works twice as hard and you can jazz it up with a bright colour."

Black and white stripes have become a summer classic. They epitomise easy chic. This season's holdest bright is scarlet, but turquoise, yellow or orange will also provide the



Fashion
by
IAIN R.
WEBB

desired, brilliant highlight.

Summer styles need to be chosen carefully. Charles recommends unstructured, uncluttered clothes, such as her jersey T-shirts or little shift dresses which, when worn over trousers, doubles as a tunic.

Jersey is one of the best fabrics for travelling. It's light, it feels good and clothes made from the silky fabric can be rolled up so that they take up little space in a suitcase.

"Remember what life is like on the beach," Jackson says. "You want to be able to undress and dress in an elegant manner. Choose simple options which you can slip in and out of, something which is really comfortable for when you spend too long in the sun. There is nothing worse than having to struggle into ill-fitting clothes when you're oily and feeling prickly."

The ideal holiday wardrobe makes less look like much more. Pieces should be chosen to mix and match. A pair of black trousers (wide, jersey), a pair or two of white trousers — one wide and one Capri (maybe something with a sheen), a slip dress, a polo shirt, a long-sleeved T-shirt (for when you need to keep your arms out of the sun), a cardigan or two (one in a bright colour), one pair of flat walking shoes, one pair of strappy sandals, and a swimsuit which can be worn as an evening top.

LEFT: Black/ivory stripe tunic, £211, Caroline Charles, 170 New Bond St, London W1. White Capri pants, £127, David Fielden, Harvey Nichols, London SW1; The Clothes Room, 1 Marsham Road, Harrogate, Yorkshire. Sunglasses, £120, Giorgio Armani, Harvey Nichols, London SW1; Selfridges, Oxford St, London W1; John Lewis, branches nationwide; Woodhouse, branches nationwide. Shoes, £115, Russell & Bromley, selected branches nationwide.

ABOVE LEFT: Dress, £174, Caroline Charles, as above. Black cashmere cardigan, £195, N.Peat, 37 & 71 Burlington Arcade, London W1; 190 Piccadilly, London W1. Sunglasses, £120, Giorgio Armani, as above. Black patent/plastic strappy mules, £59, Sacha, 147 Oxford St, London W1.

THE BEST OF THE BEST

- White polo shirt, £20, French Connection (0171-580 2507)
- White halter bikini with black stripe trim, £19.99, Next/Next Directory (mail order: 0345 100500)
- Black and white polka dot dress, Whistles, £95 approx (0171-487 4484)
- Black and white striped hotpants, £29.99, Kookai (0171-937 4411)
- Black and white striped trousers, £29.95, Monsoon (0171-313 3000)
- Red leather mules, £59, Pied a Terre (0171-491 3857)
- Red plique top, £21.99, Warehouse, branches nationwide

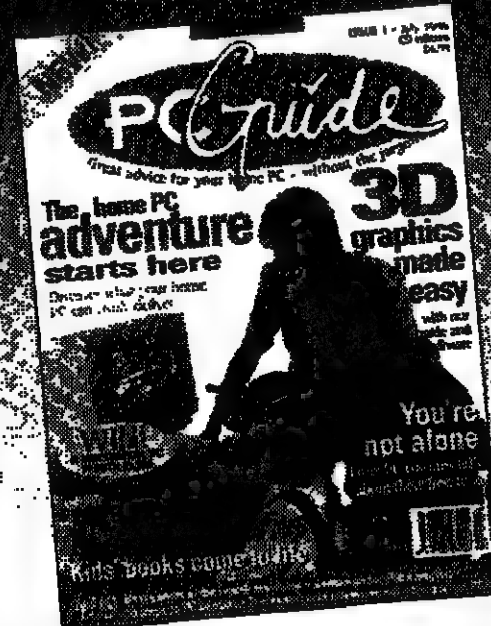


ABOVE: Black/white top, £70, Sonia Rykiel, Browns, 23-27 South Molton St, London W1. Cardigan, £29.99, Oasis, selected branches (0171-377 5335). Pants, £179, Betty Jackson, 311 Brompton Road, London SW3. Brogues, £79, Sam Walker, 41 Neal St, London WC2 (0171-240 7800).

LEFT: Top, £14.99, Kookai, branches nationwide. Trousers, £278, Caroline Charles, 170 New Bond St, London W1; 56-57 Beauchamp Place, London SW3; Partners, 63 High St, Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne. Plastic bag, £9.50, Trine, Farwick's, Bond St, London W1. Brogues, £135, Joan & David, 150 New Bond St, London W1; Harvey Nichols, London SW1

Photographs by CHRIS DAWES
Hair by Gordon Pinder. Make-up by Mandy Winrow

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Alan Coren



■ We all have a bit of a novel in us

If you are one of those people who feels that for a work of art to be considered major it must be a source of both intrinsic delight and extrinsic significance, I have to tell you that this is a very big week indeed. For it sees the publication of a novel which compels us to recognise not only that the future of fiction will never be the same again, but that the past of fiction will never be the same again, either.

The novel has come about because Miss Eve Pollard, Joyce Hopkirk and Val Corbett have got together to manufacture a single ms: they have pooled their three discrete talents into a single concrete item. It is entitled *Splash*, and it is not simply what must these days, I suppose, be called a mistresspiece in itself; it has, in one giant step for fictionkind, exponentially carried the novel forward into uplands broader and sunnier than anything we could have imagined, at the same time bringing home to us how limitless were the past opportunities our earlier novelists missed.

Ever since I took leave of the last shimmering page of *Splash*, my brain has been bobbing ceaselessly in its ripples, as different tris of coeval novelists, brilliantly singular in their genius but even more brilliantly triangular in their potential, form and reform in the mind.

Consider, for example, D.H. Lawrence. Which of us, our nose pressed to the grindstone of his unyielding moral earnestness, has not longed for the light relief of a little comic something to make us roll shrieking on the carpet? And, conversely, who, even as his ribs cracked at the sound of aunt calling to aunt like mastodons bellowing across primeval swamps, has not said to himself, this is a bit bloody silly, I am a grown man, I have wasted the whole day chording over P.G. Wodehouse when I could have been learning a thing or two about the dark recesses of the human soul?

And then again, dab though these two scribbling hands might have been at their own genres, if what you were after was a rattling good yarn by a roaring fire, could either hold a contemporary candle to John Buchan?

But what if some astute publisher in, say, 1921, had convened these three masters in an upstairs Bloomsbury room before a serried trio of Underwoods and a friffin of Johnny Walker? Would you not die for *Lady Glossop's 39 Lovers*?

Here is Sir Roderick Glossop, cruelly cut half-off in his prime by a ghastly croquet accident, leaving his succulent and distracted consort climbing up the curtains in a welter of phalloscentric metaphor, until that fateful day when, nipping out to the kitchen garden in her filmy peignoir tremblingly to pluck a couple of big brassicas, she stumbles across Catsmeat Potter-Purbridge, trapped in the cold frame by a flapping spat.

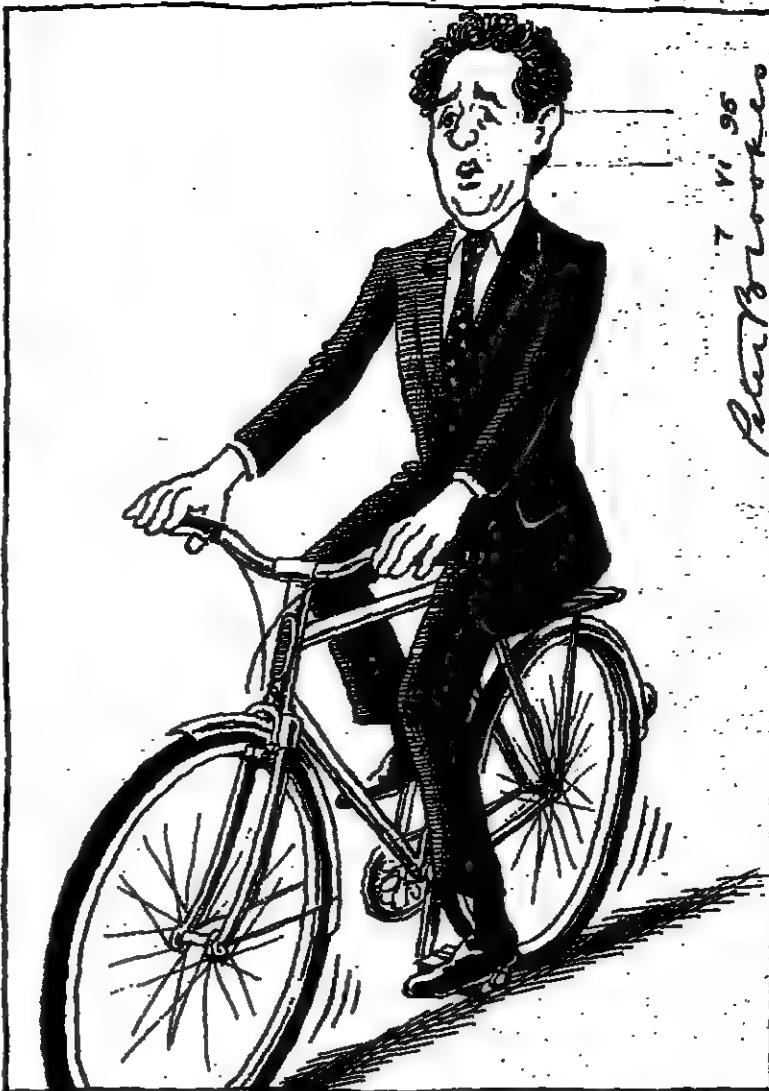
His monocle mists, and in a trice he is gathering forget-me-nots for early transplanting. We learn much, as the breakers crash upon the shore, of this and that, and not a little of the other, but it is only when the door of their humble toilsome tryst is summarily unbarred by six members of the international conspiracy bent on snaffling blueprints of the Fink-Nottle Torpedo do we learn that Catsmeat is, in fact, all that stands between the League of Nations and a heinous plot to discredit it by substituting the Empress of Blandings for Woodrow Wilson.

Good game, isn't it? And for those with less parochial literary tastes, may I suggest the international version, involving Fyodor Dostoevsky, Mark Twain and Mrs Beeton? Entitled *The Brothers Hackleberry's Book of Household Management*, it adds a further highly marketable dimension in the form of recipes for such multicultural delicacies as jagged racoon and brown Windsor borscht which alone would be worth the price.

As for the novel's future rather than its past, forgive me if I am more guarded. Serious money is involved, and only a fool would rush into a fictional bed with Barbara Cartland and Salman Rushdie if a publisher would prefer to see me dovetailed with Freddie Forsyth and Joanna Trollope. Me, you say? And why not? As Pollard, Hopkirk and Corbett Ltd so resoundingly prove, everybody has a third of a novel in him or her.



SIR RICHARD SCOTT
ON HIS BIKE...



...WILLIAM WALDEGRAVE
ON HIS

Riding Scott's tiger

Why Sir Richard's Washington-style arms-for-Iraq public inquiry has become a travesty of natural justice

John Major should set up an inquiry into the leak from the Scott inquiry. It should be headed by the distinguished judge, Sir Richard Scott. He will investigate himself for three years, refuse to allow himself legal help and release periodic drafts to the Royal Court Theatre and the BBC.

He will "accept his sincerity" in not intending any leak, but conclude that this was based on a "sophisticated" distinction between sending a document to a civil servant, a lawyer and a journalist. He will conclude that his promise three years ago of a fast and fair inquiry was "apt to mislead" people into thinking he meant a fast and fair inquiry. As for his failure to give himself an injunction to stop the leak, he will find the accusation "deplorable and unfair" and demand an inquiry. It should be headed by Scott, take three years, refuse to allow.

There are two ways of approaching the latest Scott fiasco. The first is the rumbustious. The Government is back on the run. Hurrah. The jackals are gloating in the chase. They have spotted a wounded wildebeest and are circling for the kill. This is thrill of journalism, the cry of the pack, the first stumble, the sight of blood. Old Scott may be a bit naïf and cannot tell a PPS from a PUS, but the Government summoned him to dig Mr Major out of a rough afternoon in the House of Commons. Such short-term gimmicks are always a mistake. Mr Major must pay for that flash of weakness. Politics is a cruel game.

On this analysis, Scott is no fool. Observers assumed yesterday that, when informed of the leak, he would apply for an injunction stopping the BBC from using its scoop. The leak was defamatory of William Waldegrave and an offence against natural justice. Instead Sir Richard amazed Downing Street by giving a television interview and riding his bike round Buckingham Gate for the benefit of the cameras.

The other approach is to attempt to see how this astonishing state of affairs came to be. Sir Richard was asked to inquire into an executive process, the handling within Whitehall of trade policy. There were no allegations of illegality, venality or corruption. The charge to which this week's leak refers is that ministers misled MPs in correspondence — normally a matter that would be handled by the Commons itself. Two ministers involved in arms sales, Lord Trefgarne and Alan Clark,

wanted policy towards Iraq changed with the end of the Iran-Iraq war. The Foreign Office's Mr Waldegrave did not. The compromise was only a "more flexible" use of existing guidelines, not the change in policy that Clark had been seeking. It was a change more of nuance than of policy. It was a nuance that should also be kept secret given the delicate diplomacy of the Middle East at the time. This seems in itself unremarkable and hardly cause for Sir Richard's histrionic reaction. As Lord Howe has pointed out, these are bound to be "grim and difficult" waters. Trade policy is like intelligence policy, and is excluded even from America's open government laws. Feel back the skin and you will always find something delicate, if not indelicate, underneath. The same applies to the other half of the Scott inquiry, the link between espionage, security and trade legislation over the Matrix Churchill prosecution. It is not as if ministers or officials misled Parliament because they had their fingers in the till, were helping party funds or protecting their mistresses. The misleading is of the sort that occurs a dozen times a day at Parliamentary Questions. In the great canon of government corks and shockers — Westland, Crown Agents, Nimrod, Pergau dam, Black Wednesday — the machine-tools-for-Iraq guidelines hardly rate a footnote. Perhaps Mr Major did proffer his chin to Scott, but that does not exonerate Scott from respecting natural justice and a sense of proportion.

Parts of the draft Scott report are now circulating round Fleet Street like fragments of the Dead Sea Scrolls. Anyone reading them, and recalling Sir Richard's cross-examination, must be surprised at his naïve view of how government is or should be conducted: as a ciadel of methodical virtue, its decisions black or white but never grey, indeed a place much like our own dear

High Court. Blessed with a keen forensic mind and the glories of hindsight, Sir Richard appeared to have made up his mind from the start that Matrix Churchill would be Thatcherism's Watergate.

This report was originally intended for the Department of Trade and Industry and that is still its status. Sir Richard does not chair it as a judge but as a *de facto* inspector. Such inquiries are not judicial but can be highly damaging to companies and individuals, which is why Lord Salmon in 1966 advised strongly against their wide spread use. Inspectors are warned to adhere to careful guidelines and "not to conduct a trial... because there is no appeal against the validity of any criticism." There should be "restraint in the manner and extent of criticism, particularly of individuals." Inquiries are told to avoid "superfluous epigrams and the eye-catching phrase which are likely to lead to unbalanced comments" in any subsequent publicity.

To put it mildly, Sir Richard has disregarded these guidelines. He decided on a Washington-style public inquiry, yet with none of the judicial safeguards that justice might demand of one. He and his QC, Presley Baxendale, conducted themselves throughout the hearings as prosecuting advocates, not as seekers after truth, yet witnesses were forbidden to have lawyers to cross-examine the inquiry or defend themselves. Both Sir Richard and Ms Baxendale demanded millions of pounds-worth of paper to be prepared by witnesses, with constant references back yet no hint of the main charges. They bedecored and point-scored. They chose as their staff other lawyers but no lay assessors with experience of ministerial or Whitehall policy work. In desperation they at one point turned to a former Permanent Secretary, Sir Mich-

ael Quinlan, for a paper on how Whitehall worked. Staff briefed the press and enjoyed the limelight. The inquiry won the judicial Oscar of a theatrical version of its performance.

Sir Richard's refusal to permit legal representation was clearly a mistake, as his inquiry changed into what amounted to a political show trial. Labour's Robin Cook acted as unofficial press officer after each session, gleefully rubbing salt into the wounds Sir Richard and Ms Baxendale had inflicted. Witnesses were at risk of their careers yet denied the fundamental right to be re-examined by their own lawyers after hearing the case for the prosecution. In his recent Lincoln's Inn lecture, Sir Richard defended this denial on the ground that it would have taken even longer had witnesses had lawyers. He berated Lord Trefgarne for hiring expensive solicitors and turning up with a silent Sir Patrick Neill, QC, at his side. Yet the presence of Sir Patrick plainly cowed both Sir Richard and Ms Baxendale and appears to have secured Lord Trefgarne an "acquittal" in the draft report. The message for anybody dealing with the Scott inquiry is, hire the best lawyer you can find. (Unless you are Alan Clark, who started the whole Matrix Churchill rumpus, took the Scott inquiry for a complete ride and speaks of Sir Richard in glowing terms.)

The one defence Sir Richard, as for his approach was that his victims would have the right to see and respond privately to his conclusions. This has blown up in his face, as was predictable given the ballyhoo that had gone before. The inquiry team now has the delicate task of sending its purple passages on the Matrix Churchill prosecution to ministers, ex-ministers and officials. Each can reasonably assume that any criticism will appear, free of Sir Richard's injunction, on the BBC news. The Government will find it hard to deny their legal representation, given the references to Mr Waldegrave and to Mr Major. Having denied his witnesses a day of legal representation before his "court", Sir Richard must in all fairness allow them weeks, if not months, to fight for their reputations on paper. Otherwise they will sue him for judicial review. This one could run and run, and no guesses for who gets the gravy. Surely there will never again be an inquiry like this one.

Simon Jenkins

Two de sweet

PUDDING problems have been worrying waiters on Eurostar, the Channel Tunnel train service. British travellers want their desserts at a different stage of the meal from their continental counterparts and staff have not been able to cope.

The British choose to eat puds before cheese and biscuits, but the French and other Europeans like to do it the other way round. After trying to accommodate the nationalistic eating demands of its cosmopolitan passengers, Eurostar has thrown in the towel. Cheese and puddings are now served simultaneously.

"It's a truly European solution," says a spokesman for Eurostar. "Things got too complicated at the pudding stage so we decided to serve the two courses together." Diplomacy doesn't end there either. "We rotate the menu to give variety. There is usually a choice of two cheeses — French and English — and the same with puddings."

Culinary masters are unimpressed. "It's crazy. You can't eat both cheese and pudding together. You might as well have them with your soup," said Egon Ronay. "It's the kitchen sink solution."

● The omens were not propitious for William Waldegrave. A note from his private office relating rumours of Sir Richard Scott's criticism was handed to the Agriculture Minister in Macclesfield, where he was deep in discussions on the control of flood disasters.

Radical cheek

HELEN MIRREN spent many a productive day at Eton filming *The Madness of King George* but,



to judge from a letter she recently sent to a pupil there, the school's setting must have troubled her conscience.

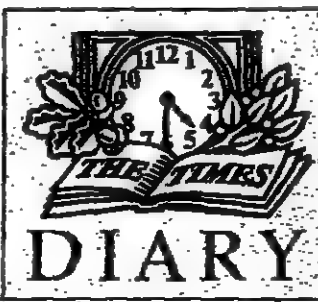
Asked recently to speak of her experience at Eton by the school's Cosmopolitan Society, she fired off a letter which has been published in Eton's *The Chronicle* magazine. "I have to decline," she wrote, "mainly because I do not agree with the existence of schools such as yours..."

Big dippers

A WARNING for Wimbledon fans. The tennis tournament heads the league table of Britain's top sports events where spectators are most likely to lose their credit cards or have them stolen by pickpockets. Henley Royal Regatta, which begins two days later, comes second, and third is the Derby, which takes place at Epsom on Saturday.

Martin Fielding, managing director of Card Protection Plan, said: "This summer's sporting calendar offers rich pickings for card crime, with an expected 47,000 plastic cards being stolen or lost. Spectators will be tucking into strawberries and cream while thieves will be tucking into rich pickings for card crime."

Big summer sports events provide the ideal scenario. The



crowds, sunny weather and drink can lead to customers ignoring security.

Scilly swinger

AS HAROLD Wilson was laid to rest yesterday, there was nostalgia at the Isles of Scilly's only golf club, a gorge-straw nine-hole high on the cliffs, where the former Prime Minister was once a familiar figure.

"He played off 14 — a very reasonable club standard," said the club secretary, Steve Watts. "He had a bit of a flat swing. He often said he used to swing around his pipe." Wilson donated a plane for the club championship, which he liked to present himself, as guest of honour at the club dinner.

"On one occasion our late president made a very, very long

speech," mused Watts. "At the end of it he said 'I would now like to welcome Harold Macmillan.' Everyone laughed — including our Harold, fortunately."

Mouthful

LOTS of people change their names for the sake of an inheritance. Stage and screen apart, few do so for the sake of a job. But the word in the UN headquarters is that Muhamed Sacirbey, the Bosnian Ambassador to the UN, whose passionate defence of his country is familiar to television audiences worldwide, intends to do just that.

As he is taking over as Bosnian Foreign Minister from Irfan Ljubijankic, who was killed when his helicopter was blown up last Sunday, he apparently thought his birth name sounded a tad too Turkish. From now on, it is to be Sacirbegovic. Pity the newsreaders.

Green line?

LIKE BOADICEA in her chariot, the Marchioness of Worcester will go into battle tomorrow on a double-decker bus. She has taken up the fight of the residents of Wells who want councillors to delay the construction of a relief road which



The Marchioness: bus battler

goes through environmentally sensitive areas. Bus and Marchioness will call on towns on the route to Taunton for the meeting with Somerset County Council environment committee at 2pm.

"We will be picking up people on the way," says the former actress, whose other projects continue apace. "I have a series of dinners called 'dinners for ministers' where we discuss environmental issues," she says. William Waldegrave is next on her hit-list.

P-H-S

Britons must come first in Bosnia

Woodrow Wyatt

says we should pull out with all our troops alive

I doubt if the public is aware how serious a mess we have got ourselves into over Bosnia. The war to regain the Falkland Islands was clear-cut. Argentina had never possessed them, the inhabitants wished to stay British, and we had vital long-term interests. The fishing and oil potential for future generations is enormous. The Falklands are also the gateway to our Antarctic possessions, which, eventually, will disgorge fabulous riches in oil and minerals.

In Kuwait, the loss of the bulk of the world's oil supplies was at stake. Iraq intended to seize the oil in the Gulf states and use Kuwait as a bridgehead into Saudi Arabia. Lurking behind Iraq, Iran waited to pounce, first if it could, with the same object. If the Western powers, blessed more or less by the United Nations, had failed, the shock to their economies would have created mass unemployment.

In former Yugoslavia, our purpose is confused. Britain has no interests there whatsoever, which are essential. Humanitarian aid should have remained the business of the Red Cross and civilian organisations. Sending armed troops to protect aid convoys was the first fatal error. They were bound to get involved in some form of fighting with the various factions trying to down each other.

Instead of removing our troops immediately, we started to see ourselves as some weird form of peacekeeping force. It is true that by far the largest part of former Yugoslavia appears to be peaceful, though nobody can tell how long that happy condition will persist. Other parts, such as Bosnia, are decidedly not at peace.

The missions of Lord Carrington and Lord Owen were doomed at the outset. The complexities of the ancient hatreds among numerous different races and religions, dating back over a thousand years, are far too difficult for any outsider to grasp or settle. Nor are they of entirely European origin. The Turkish occupation left behind Muslim Turks from Asia, and locals either willingly or forcibly converted to the Muslim religion. To think that the European Union, Nato or the United Nations could ever impose a peace by force is laughable.

During the Second World War, the Germans occupying Yugoslavia had numerous divisions bogged down trying to quell resistance. Yet, at the same time, the Yugoslavs had sufficient energy to conduct a civil war against each other. The winner, Tito, was able to impose a peace because the entire population was united against the very real threat of Soviet aggression. Tito's death roughly coincided with the break-up of the Soviet Union. The fear that brought internal co-operation has vanished.

There should be only one purpose in our sending reinforcements to forces which should never have been there: to prepare bases for the speedy but dangerous removal of all our servicemen as soon as the hostages of all nationalities have been returned. This event may be delayed by the desire of the combatants to persuade UN troops, or whichever name they may operate under, to take sides against their opponents. This they will be unable to avoid. But, astonishingly, Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, and Malcolm Rifkind, the Defence Secretary, are against withdrawal.

In the Commons last week, Mr Rifkind denied the suggestion that British troops could withdraw "even if French, Dutch, Canadian and other forces stay. Would that be either honourable or in our national interest?" Mr Hurd, advocating a permanent peacekeeping role, says that if we abandon it, all-out war could easily spread to neighbouring states because that is what happened after the murder of the Austrian Emperor's heir in Sarajevo in June 1914.

The Foreign Office should brush up its history: there is no German Kaiser, Austro-Hungarian Emperor or Russian Tsar able to provoke a world war. Now, not even quarrels between Greece and Turkey over, say, Macedonia, could initiate one.

Unless they are engaged in a gigantic cover-up, for which there could only be praise, the Foreign Office and Defence Ministry are leading us inexorably towards a Vietnam-style entanglement in which the requirement for ever more troops will be never-ending until we creep away humiliated as defeated fools.

Our reluctance to act unilaterally stems from the absurd notion that the EU should and could have a common foreign policy and that the authority of the UN would be irreparably damaged. The UN will continue to have its failures and successes and will not die; it is not a single entity and rarely has a concerted view.

The same applies to the EU where a joint foreign policy is neither possible nor desirable. The Foreign Office must abjure the bureaucratic joys of stining with EU counterparts. Lately laying down what is best for Europe and remembering that its prime duty is to put Britain first. There will be a fearful outcry if numerous coffins arrive here containing servicemen who died for no better cause than the vanity of Whitehall mandarins.



NO TRIAL BY LEAK

Waldegrave should not be judged until the inquiry is complete

The political vultures were circling yesterday over the rather wan head of William Waldegrave. At Prime Minister's Question Time the Minister of Agriculture looked as if he was suffering from organo-phosphate sheep dip poisoning. Actually, he was still reeling from a poisoning of the reputation. A leaked draft of the Scott inquiry's findings suggested that he had written letters to other MPs which were "untrue" and "apt to mislead". Misleading the House is, as every minister knows, a hanging offence.

But these are very early days. All that has reached the public domain is one section of a first draft of Sir Richard Scott's initial findings. They have been sent to Mr Waldegrave for comment — and, to judge from the minister's immediate reaction, his reply will be trenchant. The provisional findings, he said, were "wrong and unfair" and he was confident that he would be able to convince Sir Richard that this was the case. Downing Street was swift to back Mr Waldegrave, in terms that could prove embarrassingly fulsome if the final report turns out to be as critical as the draft. But it has to be remembered that John Major himself, in his capacity as Foreign Secretary, has also been implicated in this alleged secret shift of policy towards Iraq. To judge from the leak, the best interpretation of his involvement is likely to be that he was too new to the job to realise the implications of what he was doing. The Prime Minister is extremely sensitive to accusations of inexperience.

Meanwhile, Mr Waldegrave has been fighting back, meeting backbenchers and even preparing an aide-memoire for their perusal. He has never seemed to be the type of minister to whom dishonesty would come naturally. If the inquiry were to find that he

did mislead the House, it would not have been for personal gain. More plausible is that he would have been a colluder in the typically arrogant Foreign Office view that the House of Commons is best kept out of delicate foreign policy.

The author of the inquiry was justifiably angry yesterday about the leak. Sir Richard is aware of the whispering campaign that has been mounting against him. Ministers have every interest in discrediting him and his inquiry (and yesterday they threw in the BBC and the Labour Party for good measure). But it is reassuring to hear that he is determined to publish his report as soon as possible. The longer it is delayed, the less impact it will have, and the more opportunity there will be for his enemies to undermine him.

Mr Waldegrave's enemies can do little more than flit from radio to television studio. It is absurd to expect a minister to resign on the basis of a partial leak from a provisional document. The Minister of Agriculture is safe in his job — for the moment. If and when the Prime Minister reconsiders his position, it will not be until the final report has been published.

When this week's events are remembered, it may turn out that the unlikely beneficiary of the leak is Mr Waldegrave himself. Every politician knows the advantage of bad news dribbling out in advance. If the final Scott inquiry report is as hard on Mr Waldegrave as the first draft, at least its shock value will have been diminished. If, on the other hand, it has been toned down, that can be presented as a victory for the Minister of Agriculture. When Mr Waldegrave wakes up this morning, he should conclude that yesterday might not have been such a bad day for him after all.

HELPING HANDS

Government can have only a limited role in voluntary work

Few could quarrel with the intentions of the Home Secretary's new initiative to encourage voluntary activity. Michael Howard's proposals are aimed specifically at involving the young and older people in voluntary projects. If successful, these moves could help to provide outlets for youthful idealism as well as bringing adolescents and the retired into useful contact with the wider community. Such objectives are above reproach: the question is whether — and how — they are to be achieved. Mr Howard has suggested setting up a network of co-ordinating agencies.

These "volunteer development agencies" will be established to provide "a local focus for the development of volunteering activities". The Home Office says that their role will consist of networking and encouraging partnerships between local bodies. Apart from putting would-be volunteers in touch with those who could use their help, they will also serve to exhort the voluntary sector to make more use of those target groups — the young and the old — who currently participate least in such work.

Funding is to be made available to cover the staffing and administration costs of these agencies. There is a danger that this could amount to a layer of bureaucratic officialdom whose main purpose would be to pass information between existing bodies. By appointing full-time staff, the agencies might assume precisely the "professional" air which has helped to undermine so much of the informal nature of voluntarism. Their progress must be carefully watched.

Politicians and political thinkers of all parties have come to agree on the need to revive the spirit of community self-help and

mutual aid that was once a feature of neighbourhood life in Britain. On the left, this has taken the form of a fashionable theory of "communitarianism" which turns such aspirations into a systematic political philosophy. With writers like David Selbourne and Amitai Etzioni concerned to present voluntarism as part of a new model of collectivist social values, it is important that Conservatives emphasise a very different interpretation.

The attractions of voluntary action can be seen to lie precisely in the scope they offer private individuals to contribute to national and local life in a manner that it would be impossible (and unwise) for government to organise. A healthy community needs individuals prepared to give their time and energy with enthusiastic altruism in countless disparate ways. Conservatives recognise that the breakdown of traditional patterns of voluntary work is one factor in the exponential growth of the welfare state (which in turn has caused the voluntary sector to decline even further).

More serious than the financial cost to the taxpayer has been the morally debilitating effect on society. The State has taken far too much responsibility for beneficence and social concern out of the hands of individuals. Since the war, more and more forms of goodwill have been effectively nationalised. In attempting to reclaim the political ground of voluntarism, Conservatives must beware of appearing to embrace the voluntary sector as a cheap alternative to welfare provision. But more importantly, they must make it clear that they understand the limits of government's role in what is — by definition — a private sphere.

HOPE IN THE RUINS

Plans for St Ethelburga's preserve its spirit if not its fabric

The proposal unveiled today to preserve the ruins of St Ethelburga-the-Virgin and build around them an enclosed space for continued worship and prayer is a long overdue victory for the indomitable Christian spirit. The smallest church in the City of London, this modest jewel of medieval architecture survived the Wars of the Roses, the Great Fire of 1666 and the Blitz, but was destroyed by the IRA Bishopsgate bomb in 1993. One of the most heartening responses to the bomb's devastation was the spontaneous offer by City institutions to pay for the church's complete restoration. Yet this munificent gesture almost foundered on the shoals of church politics.

The destruction of St Ethelburga's came just before the controversial decision by the Templeman commission to close 24 of the City's under-used churches. Predictably, this raised an outcry, setting the supporters of those that were to be saved. St Ethelburga's might well have been a victim of this commission: it had already been converted into a chapel of rest, and was considered too small to function as a viable church. The offer to rebuild it, at a cost of at least £1.75 million, was questioned by some concerned churches, by clergy seeking funds for other church work and by some architectural purists.

Their opposition was explainable but utterly wrong. Even more wrong-headed appeared the response of some influential churchmen. Caught between conflicting advice, they vacillated and obstructed: it even seemed that suggestions that the site could be turned into a garden or sold and

used for an office block might win the day. Such sacrilege would have outraged all those who care for London's spiritual and architectural heritage. Paralysed by indecision, the Diocese of London allowed St Ethelburga's to remain a heap of rubble, a shattered reminder of destruction.

The panel of assessors appointed by the Bishop of London has now made a recommendation that is intelligent, sensitive and in keeping with the mood of the City and the nation. The vital point is that the spirit, if not the fabric, of this wounded house of God will live on. The Times, which was in the vanguard of the campaign for St Ethelburga's, would have preferred its reconstruction: to see the physical triumph over death would have held enormous spiritual as well as political significance, and arguments about architectural authenticity were long swept away by the rebuilding of so many churches and monuments after their destruction during the Second World War.

Nevertheless, the preservation of the ruins is ingenious and undeniably effective in pointing to the wicked folly of violence. Two great churches destroyed by wartime bombing — Coventry Cathedral and the Gedächtniskirche in Berlin — have been starkly preserved and the ruins are used for worship. The panel's proposals would also produce a modern, multi-function meeting-place for London's Christian community as well as a garden where rest and contemplation can be encouraged. They deserve approval by the Church's leadership, and to be supported, financially, by all those who want to remember the lovely little church in the City.

Arguments for a single currency

From Mr Christopher Johnson

Sir, William Rees-Mogg's article, "Virtual unreality" (June 1), well illustrates the problems faced by the European Union as it moves towards a single currency. He concludes that, on certain conditions, "perhaps a single currency for Europe could succeed". However, his witty characterisation of some of the chief advocates of monetary union was unfair on two points.

First, M de Silguy, the European Union Commissioner for Economic and Monetary Affairs, published a green paper yesterday on the single currency (report, June 1) with "the need to win popular support" as one of its primary objectives. So it is not fair to say that Brussels is "exotic from popular reality". The very fact that the paper is green, and invites public comment, shows that he is not saying, as Rees-Mogg has it, "that we must do as we are told".

Second, the remarks made by M Jean-Claude Trichet, Governor of the Bank of France, at the conference of the Association for the Monetary Union of Europe, referred specifically to the important role that national central banks would have in the new European system of central banks, so it is not at all clear that he intends the European Central Bank to prevail, as Rees-Mogg maintains.

Mr Eddie George, the Governor of the Bank of England, would surely agree with his French counterpart's bid for some devolution in favour of national central banks in implementing European monetary policy.

It is no good complaining that there are too many French officials involved in monetary union, as Rees-Mogg does. Member states have a crucial role to play in putting the arguments for the single currency. Where governments are still sitting on the fence, as in this country, it is up to the private sector to take the lead. The UK may or may not opt in to the single currency, but it should not opt out of the argument.

Yours sincerely,
CHRISTOPHER JOHNSON
(UK Adviser, Association for the Monetary Union of Europe),
39 Wood Lane, N6,
June 1.

From Mr Peter Chadwick

Sir, Yet again, Euro-sceptics are urging the Prime Minister to say "No" to a single European currency (report, June 5).

But how can he prevent it coming about? If France, Germany and the Benelux countries want there to be a unified currency, then there will be one, whatever it is called, and whether or not Britain merges sterling into it. And it will be a currency with much of the solidity of the German mark.

What will happen next? Given that one of the main purposes of money is a store of value, and given the historically pathetic performance of sterling in this role, would you, given the choice, prefer to have your salary denominated in sterling (and to keep your savings in sterling) or would you prefer to have your contract written in Euromarks?

What I fear is a two-currency system — like in the old East Europe or in many Third World countries — with a rubbishy currency for ordinary people's pay and pensions, and a solid value-retaining currency (the US dollar or the mark, usually) for the rich and powerful.

Yours faithfully,
PETER CHADWICK,
60 Sutherland Square, SE17.

Naming a widget

From Mr G. D. Hammerton

Sir, Now that the "widget" inside certain cans of beer has been thrust into national prominence, if not into actual sight, by a malfunction requiring a recall of the cans (News in brief, June 1), is it not time that a proper name was coined for this device?

"Widget" is defined in Chambers Dictionary (1988) as "a gadget; an unnamed small manufactured item or component".

Should not the Brewers' Society, in association with the unions of the brewing industry and in consultation with the Editor of the Oxford English Dictionary and other learned figures, come up with an exact name for this item?

I toss the suggestion "draught" into the ferment.

Yours faithfully,
G. D. HAMMERTON,
8 Borsell Drive,
Mickleover, Derbyshire,
June 2.

Shock of the new

From the Reverend Norman Clift

Sir, "The Overture to Tannhäuser is not music," so said The Times of Monday, July 8, 1867. Judged by the same issue, your august paper seemed to have a down on Wagner and Tannhäuser "about which piece of obnoxious rhodomontade we have spoken more than once".

Whose side would Mr Levin have taken on hearing such modern music (letters, May 27, June 1)?

Yours faithfully,
NORMAN CLIFT,
Squirrels, Cliff Street,
Great Chesterford, Essex,
June 2.

UK-trained doctors in short supply

From Dr Brian D. Keighley

Sir, You report today a crisis in British hospitals caused by their inability to recruit sufficient numbers of home-grown doctors. The problem is equally serious in general practice.

More GPs are retiring early, and many of the increasing number of female recruits, although welcome, will wish a career break for child rearing. Most worrying is the lack of young doctors coming forward to undertake training in general practice.

The West of Scotland Region trains half of Scotland's doctors and currently over 30 of our 155 training posts are lying vacant. GP staffing levels over the next ten years will become increasingly compromised at a time when work is moving steadily from the secondary to the primary health-care sector.

Prior to 1990 general practice was able to attract many of the brightest and best medical graduates. The cause of this sudden desertion is rooted in insensitive contractual change, limited investment in primary care and increasing patient demand for non-emergency care at all times of the day and night.

This week GPs are being balloned on whether to accept a government offer over the out-of-hours service. This offer is pitched at less than half what the GPs' committee of the BMA estimates would be required for a restructuring which would preserve a service for patients without exhausting the doctors. From the perspective of general practice it comes as no surprise

that there is now a crisis in morale and recruitment for doctors in the NHS.

Yours faithfully,
BRIAN KEIGHLEY,
The Clinic, Buchanan Street,
Balfour, Stirlingshire,
June 3.

From Dr Bruce McKenzie

Sir, The British Medical Association is "puzzled" by the growing numbers of junior doctors leaving their profession, with the shortfall being filled by foreign graduates.

Perhaps this has something to do with inhumane 56-hour weekends without a break or with the lowest hourly rate in the NHS, or with the lack of proper training and the constant stress. Perhaps it is related to envy of the high-paid jobs, regular hours and meal breaks, expense accounts and plush offices that can be had in the corporate echelons of health service management.

Enter the foreign graduate, leaving behind competition for fewer jobs at home, and looking forward to the opportunity of seeing Europe and experiencing another health service.

But even they don't stay very long. Just long enough, perhaps, to work out how many additional duty hours at £4.33 it takes to raise the fare home.

Yours etc,
BRUCE MCKENZIE,
First Floor, 116 Otley Road,
Far Headingley,
Leeds, West Yorkshire,
June 3.

East meets West in church relations

From Sir James Cobban

Sir, All Christians will rejoice that the Pope has made the first move towards a rapprochement with the Orthodox Church (report, May 31).

But I am puzzled by the suggestion in your editorial of the same day that if the two churches surmount their divisions then there is the possibility that "the trickle of conservative Anglicans seeking communion with Rome, and Constantinople, will become a flood".

This surely is the kind of triumphalism that the leaders of the Roman Church in this country have avoided in recent years. Much as we welcome this reconciliation, it is most unlikely that, in itself, it would induce many of those in the Church of England who call themselves Catholic to change their allegiance.

If the Pope has really accepted the principle of unity in diversity, this is a big step forward. It means that we too can look forward to the day when we are a part of a worldwide communion which does not demand the uniformity of all its member churches.

But the first step must be for Rome to recognise our orders. Then and only then can we have a constructive dialogue about those modern developments such as the infallibility of the Pope, the doctrines of the immaculate conception and the corporeal assumption.

Rail services

From Mr Charles Long

Sir, Whatever accountability-driven lunacies are currently dictating railway policy in this country, it is certainly not true that "the people who run BR never liked something that was too far from its core business" (leading article, "The train now standing", June 2). It was, after all, British Railways that launched the car-sleeper concept, later promoted as Motorail, as a mainstream railway service in the 1950s.

The adoption by the French of the same marketing title was a conscious tribute to BR's pioneering efforts.

Yours faithfully,
CHARLES LONG,
2 Garlands Court,
Garlands Road, Leatherhead, Surrey,
June 2.

From Miss Mary Spain

Sir, As one of the seemingly last passengers to enjoy the advantages of the Motorail service, I entreated friends on returning from Scotland last month, about my easy and trouble-free journey. Almost without exception, they knew nothing of this service and stated that they would have been eager to use it had they done so.

Surely it is neither fair nor just to kill a service for purportedly lacking support when no effort has been made to give it the publicity it deserves.

Yours faithfully,
MARY SPAIN,
34 Airle House, Airtle Gardens, W8,
June 3.

From Mr James Y. McLeod

Sir, The Fort William sleeper carries only sleeping-car passengers, even though for much of its route beyond Glasgow it travels during daylight hours. It leaves Fort William at 7.45pm, more than two hours after the last normal passenger service of the day to Glasgow.

Particularly in the summer months, surely it could attract a significant number of seated passengers, especially tourists, if extra carriages were attached.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES McLEOD,
1 Queen's Court,
Queen's Ride, Barnes, SW13,
June 5.

tion, on which we should have to agree to differ.

That is the kind of corporate reunion with Rome for which I hope and pray. I shall not live to see it. But I like to think that my grandchildren may.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES COBBAN,
10 Coverdale Court,
Preston Road, Yeovil, Somerset,
June 1.

From the Venerable Peter Dawson

Sir, Your suggestion that a new accord between the Church of Rome and Eastern Orthodoxy could possibly turn a "trickle" of Anglicans joining those churches into a "flood" is pure make-believe.

Any such accord is a matter for the participating churches and will have no appeal and little interest for that considerable majority of Anglicans who are gladly content to recognise that the character of the Church of England, within that broader "catholicism" which encompasses all Christians believing people of whatever denomination, is protestant and reformed.

Yours sincerely,
PETER DAWSON,
Elm Cottage, The Drift,
Church Road, Tostock,
Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk,
June 1.

Coach safety

From Mr Fritz M. Liebreich

Sir, David Gladstone regrets (letter, May 31) the delay in fitting crush-proof roll bars in coaches. The main reason why they have not become mandatory in all British-built coaches, only those built since 1993, is that Britain, alone out of all our EC partners, insists that every coach prototype must undergo an expensive, irrelevant and obsolete 35-degree static test.

The imperative to pass this test is an incentive to design light, flimsy roofs: a crush-proof roof or the insertion of roll-over bars can make passing the test problematical.

The result is that roofs and side windows in older coaches still collapse in roll-over accidents, trapping and crushing passengers.

Yours faithfully,
FRITZ M. LIEBREICH,
5 Monks Drive, W3.

Youth crime

From Mr Mike Wiggett

Sir, Mr East (letter, June 6) might indeed blame the postwar rise in youth crime on increased ownership of consumer goods. In 1950 there wasn't much to steal.

Yours,
MIKE WIGGETT,
10 Forsythia Drive, Cyncoed, Cardiff,
June 6.

From Mrs Beryl Houghton

Sir, It seems to me that the increase in the incidence of crime committed by young people is due largely to the power of peer-group approval.

Like company directors and large financial institutions, many young people today are happy to disregard public opinion and applaud and support one another in their search for self-gratification. They suffer no shame when their lack of morals is exposed.

Yours sincerely,
B. F. HOUGHTON,
162 Tinsill Road,
Leeds, West Yorkshire.

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.

Constraints in the countryside

From Lieutenant-Colonel Lord Wynford

Sir, The chairman of the Ramblers' Association argued (letter, May 24; see also letter, May 27) that our citizens should be able to walk freely over "the wild, open spaces of the country...". She cited specifically "the owner of an entire mountain or a vast area of moorland" as examples of unreasonableness. Such areas are exceptions: their owners can be left to defend themselves forcefully. But Miss Ashbrook seems to have wider fields in view.

Farmers have comparatively small areas to defend. Where these include downland, heathland, moorland, wetland or even scrubland they would not be heavily stocked or cultivated. They would appear at first sight ideal for rambling. In such areas ramblers might inadvertently stray or deliberately trespass.

I regret to say that the tone in Miss Ashbrook's letter looks like a smoke-screen of reasonableness concealing guarded and implied threats. Ramblers could give rise to serious damage and losses. There is no room for risk-taking in these marginal small enterprises.

Where woodlands are concerned there are special difficulties. The public is not to know of plans for plantings, thinning or sporting developments. Very heavy machinery is involved. Blocking of narrow places, such as rides — by cars or lorries, for instance — could be very damaging to contracts.

Fuel, oil and spare parts of high value may be on the ground. Barking and branch-stripping from felled trees leave a great deal of rubbish on the ground, all highly inflammable in dry weather. Fire cannot be insured against. Culling of wild animals with rifles is very dangerous if strangers may be about.

Not a universal right to roam is becoming increasingly impracticable in this small island.

Yours faithfully,
WYNFORD,
Wynford House,
Wynford Eagle, Dorchester, Dorset,
May 31.

From Mr Bruce V. Jones, MRCVS

Sir, Recent letters you have published on "freedom to roam" have happily coincided with the National Farmers' Union initiative, "Welcome to the Countryside". While not an open invitation to walk over every farm, it does point up the importance the NFU attaches to building a good relationship with urban dwellers. And indeed one often sees signs on agricultural land welcoming walkers while requesting a good-behaviour code.

It is surprising therefore to find, almost in the same week, CWS Agriculture, which by owning some 50,000 acres is Britain's largest commercial farmer, asking people to keep to the public footpaths. This appears to be contrary to the NFU's initiative and represents a rather poor return to the public for the huge CAP subsidy payments CWS Agriculture must receive. (A quick look at some of its acres indicates that it prefers the subsidised agricultural sectors.)

It is estimated that CAP subsidies cost an average family of four £1,000 a year, so surely we can be allowed to see how our money is used.

Yours faithfully,
BRUCE V. JONES,
Down Ampney House,
Down Ampney,
Cirencester, Gloucestershire,
June 2.

History teaching

From Mr Martin Titchmarsh

Sir, Lord Blake states that English history "is very badly taught in schools" (report, May 30). I would draw his attention to Ofsted's recently published *History — A Review of Inspection Findings, 1993-94*, reporting on the inspection of history teaching in 360 state secondary schools and 56 primary schools.

The report shows that standards vary markedly in schools, between schools, and between pupils of different ages. However, in the case of 16 to 18-year-olds it states:

Teaching was satisfactory in nearly nine out of ten lessons and good or very good in nearly six out of ten. Usually teaching was expert and highly knowledgeable. There was a good balance between imparting information and challenging the students through their learning. Notes were well structured and based upon good study practice. Variations of teaching style — exposition, questioning, guidance — were effectively employed. There was a proper focus on the needs of the examination and especially on analytical writing, the use of historical evidence and historiography.

Yours faithfully,
MARTIN TITCHMARSH,
17 Coppice Avenue,
Great Shelford, Cambridge.

Living for today

From Mr Michael Hill

Sir, Your correspondents (June 1, 5) put me to shame. My philosophy has always been never to put off until tomorrow what I can put off until the day after.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL HILL,
Fulwood Park Lodge,
Fulwood Park, Liverpool 17,
June 5.

GEORGE MAVROS

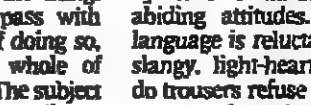
DR E. K. SCOTT



Keith Scott is survived by his wife Jane and two children from his first marriage to Bee Bond.

ROY BEDDINGTON

sculptured was presumably
dowed with both these qualities
the face of those stone-tron-



Just as the Latin
want to lend itself to a
ted facetiousness, so
to co-operate when it

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rocks strutting by, it has found
cluded by the continuing Victori-
on of straight representation

PERSONAL COLUMN

[illegible]

Battle of the brands

Sainsbury's is now giving individual advertising campaigns to its own luxury goods, Alan Mitchell says

On the supermarket shelves last week: the latest new own-label initiative from Sainsbury's. At £1.99 a tub, Sainsbury's Indulgence ice cream has the taste and quality it hopes will melt the sales of luxury ice-cream brands such as Häagen-Dazs and Ben & Jerry's. With more than twice the freezer space in store, plus a discount of 40 per cent on the big brands' prices, there is a good chance it will.

A few years back an initiative like Indulgence would have been big news. The big grocery chains might have been powerful but they still did not dare take heavily promoted megabrands head-on. But since Sainsbury's humiliated Coca-Cola, the biggest and most heavily hyped brand ever, by grabbing 60 per cent of in-store cola sales, that has all changed. If current negotiations are successful, Sainsbury's could soon be selling its Classic Cola in Marmouth hypermarkets in France and through vending machines in NHS trust hospitals.

Classic Cola was "a breakthrough", says Anthony Rees, Sainsbury's director of strategic marketing. The nation's leading grocer has proved its ability to sell sub-brands "in true brand fashion". Now, he says, "We feel able to take on the major brands with confidence", and the whole programme has been given added impetus: recent sub-brand launches include Tarravine wine, the beer brand Indiana Gold, Performers nappies (taking on the might of Procter & Gamble's Pampers), and the Heinz-bashing baby-food range, First Menu.

Brands such as these have pack designs that use the same visual cues as traditional brands and names like Indulgence, which separate them from the work-a-day descriptors normally used by retailers. They even have their own separate advertising campaigns.

The significance of such initiatives is not being lost on rival grocers or the big brand manufacturers who last year took the unprecedented step of banding



Sainsbury's Indiana Gold own-brand beer is one of several products to merit its own advertising

together in the British Producers and Brand Owners Group. For Sainsbury's, the potential benefits are just too big to ignore.

First, because sub-brands are better quality products and promoted heavily, they win a bigger share of the biggest consumer markets. And, because they are sold at higher prices, they generate both higher margins and cash profits. Secondly, they help put once-arrogant manufacturers in their place. In categories dominated by megabrands, typically a lot of the high profile brands tend to offer retailers low margins," says Mr Rees. "If you can create a brand in your own right, it can change the economics of the sector."

Thirdly, successful sub-brands allow Sainsbury's to control what goes in the category "and not just have to do what we are told by manufacturers."

Rivalry, sub-brands develop the retailer's credibility in the eyes of consumers. When Sainsbury's started selling good quality, own-

label wines, it was doing more than opening up a new revenue stream, it was building its overall reputation as a respected wine merchant, stealing business from specialist chains. Likewise, says Mr Rees, the new beer, Indiana Gold, is about "trying to increase Sainsbury's credibility as an outlet for beer".

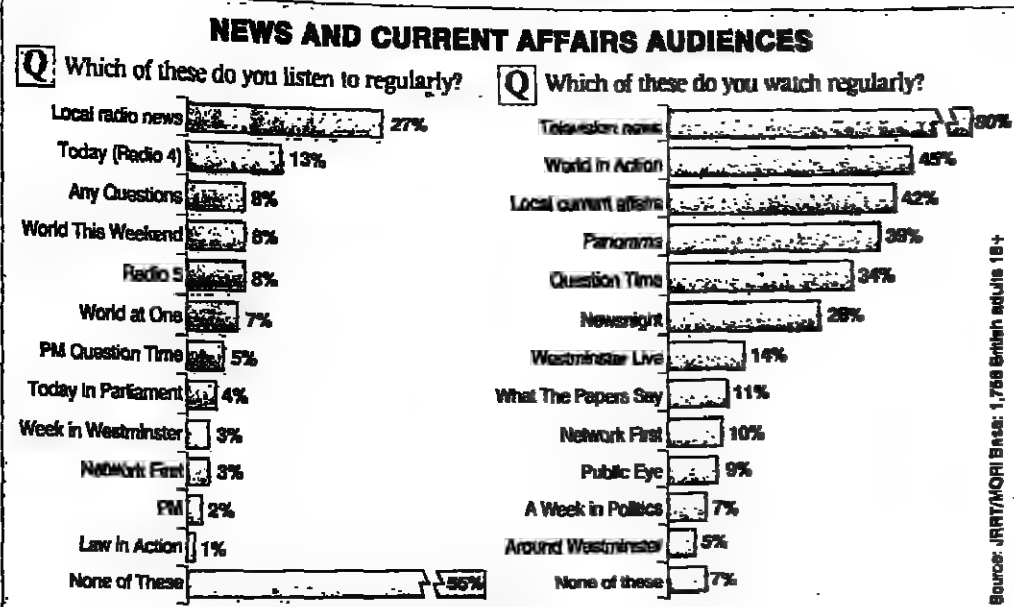
Finally, if the product really takes off it helps to attract consumers into its stores. Exciting and innovative products that enhance the reputation of the Sainsbury's brand are the major factor behind its superior sales per square foot, says chairman David Sainsbury. "First and foremost," says Mr Rees, "sub-brands are about loyalty."

The big question is how far Sainsbury's, and other retailers, will go. Some manufacturers claim that Sainsbury's has begun losing customers who cannot find their favourite brands on its shelves, a suggestion denied by Mr Rees. He does, however, accept that there is a

limit for own-brand sales. "We have no ambitions to go 100 per cent." And he does admit that sub-branding is not a panacea. Even with image-led advertising, brands such as Classic Cola will never have the street cred of Coca-Cola. The marketing of sub-brands is expensive, and it creates a potential conflict with the Sainsbury's name.

It is also just one weapon in the increasingly bitter struggle between Tesco and Sainsbury's for market leadership. Recent research by AGB shows Tesco gaining share at Sainsbury's expense. And, according to a study by NatWest Securities, Tesco initiatives such as its Value Lines, New Deal and the Club Card mean consumers are beginning to believe it offers better value for money. "Tesco appears to be out-eviling JS," says a recent NatWest Securities circular.

This month, Sainsbury's begins its perception fightback. A new advertising campaign, while featuring its sub-brands, will focus on customer service.



Where should you aim your soundbite?

FOUR out of five of us regularly watch one of the main television news bulletins, but fewer than one in seven listen to Radio 4's Today programme. Yet politicians are not being irrational when they are as eager to appear on the latter as the former. Not only the size, but also the character of the audience varies considerably. According to a recent MORI poll for the Joseph Rowntree Reform Trust's State of the Nation survey, middle-class people are three times as likely to listen to Today as the working classes. The message is, if you want to reach the electorate, get your soundbite on a television news bulletin, but if you want to influence opinion formers, including fellow MPs and journalists, get on Today.

The MORI poll confirms the dominance of television news and current affairs programmes. Viewing of news bulletins is high across all classes, regions and political preferences. This is shown by an index where 100 is the average viewing of a particular programme for the whole public. Every group is within 6 per cent of this average, apart from 18 to 24-year-olds whose viewing is 12 per cent below, and those aged 55 or over who are 9 per cent higher.

Broadly the same is true of

Which media audiences are most influential?

Robert Worcester and Peter Riddell tune in

AUDIENCES BY CLASS

Class	Television news	Radio 4 Today	Radio 5	Radio 4 Today	Radio 5	Radio 4 Today	Radio 5
AB	21	211	138	102	109	107	107
C1	27	104	104	99	98	98	98
C2	28	67	101	100	98	98	98
C3	29	45	97	99	98	98	98
DE	34	120	119	100	108	108	108
Other	32	55	81	100	98	98	98

* Where 100% is the average viewing of a particular programme for the whole public. Source: MORI

current affairs programmes like World in Action and Panorama, though both are seen by above average numbers of Liberal Democrat supporters. This counters the previous impression that such programmes had a predominantly Tory supporting audience.

Variations are much larger with radio. Professional people and senior managers are roughly

a fifth of the public, but they make up well over two-fifths of the audience for Today. By contrast, the working classes, still more than half the public, account for only just over a quarter of its audience. There are parallel variations by region, with people in the South nearly twice as likely as those in the North to listen; by age, with those over 55 nearly five times more likely to listen as those in the 18 to 24 bracket; and by newspaper, with readers of quality papers more than a third more likely to listen than readers of tabloids. Moreover, despite frequent Tory complaints about the Today programme, Conservative supporters are a quarter more likely than Labour ones to listen.

Men listen to radio more than women. Radio 5 Live, with its extensive sports coverage, has a distinctly "radio bloke" appeal. For instance, men are three times more likely to listen to Radio 5 Live than women.

Many politicians will also be struck by the high listening figures for local radio news: at 27 per cent of the public, double the audience for Today.

MORI interviewed 1,755 adults between April 21 and May 8. Robert Worcester is chairman of MORI and Peter Riddell is political columnist of The Times.

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The 40-year ban on the television advertising of gin, whisky and vodka, self-imposed by the drinks trade, has been lifted

One of life's most dismal utterances, which Sir Kingsley Amis was quoted as saying about lunch, is: "Shall we go straight in?" My heart sinks at the question: "Red or white?" The answer I want to give, "brown", is simply not acceptable. Whisky is wickered than wine: the hard stuff.

At last those of us who think that whisky is the finest liquid to be produced in these islands can rejoice. Prohibition is over. The 40-year ban on the advertising of strong drink on television has been lifted. Within the month, according to the Broadcast Advertising Clearance Centre, which vets terrestrial and satellite television commercials for conformity with the Independent Television Commission's code, we may expect to see our glasses to the first gin, vodka or whisky commercial.

Restored, you understand, with the warnings still thought

Softening up on the hard stuff



BRENDA MADDOX

appropriate. Over-consumption must be avoided. The product must not be associated with social success or sexual potency. Nor with use by children.

The same could be said for fast cars, cosmetics, medicines or other aids to adult living permitted under the ITC's code. But the ITC was not responsible for the spirits ban; it makes no distinction between types of alcohol, and advertisements for beers and liqueurs are tolerated. The ban was self-imposed by the drinks industry.

same time, other pleasures of the flesh (once considered harmless — chocolate, biscuits and sugary cereals — are now recognised as physical and moral traps. Hence the ITC's diatribe against the "excessive consumption of any food".

Social anthropologists, I trust, are following these shifting taboos. The ban on the television advertising of football pools has vanished — unsustainable in the light of the National Lottery. So has the ban on women's sanitary products.

Commercials are great revealers of national temperament. Many among the Great British Public were upset by the television advertisement of a child sitting on the loo, calling for toilet paper. Yet the one showing a puppy running

away with a roll of the stuff is a favourite. And British viewers might love American television programmes less if they had to take them as Americans do, lashed with officers of relief from constipation.

David Hatch retires tomorrow. "Who let this happen?" cries Terry Wogan in the BBC's *Ariel*, calling Mr Hatch "the most important radio figure of his generation". It is, indeed, a matter of curiosity, as well as regret, that an imaginative, much loved top executive in good health should leave the corporation five years before mandatory retiring age. Mr Hatch will be best remembered as head of BBC Radio or as the founder of *Week Ending*, *Just a Minute* and *I'm Sorry I Haven't a Clue*. For the past few years he has held the anomalous job of assistant to the Director-General.

In *The Listener* in May 1984, Mr Hatch, finding himself at 45

elevated from Radio 2 to Radio 4, called Radio 4 "the best speech channel in the world". Is it still? Up to a point. Hatch lightened it considerably. But now lightness is the hallmark of Radio 5. Inevitably, Radio 5's success has undermined Radio 4's primacy. Less inevitable is the way that Radio 4 seems to be dividing itself into a two-generational voice: trendy FM for the mainstream and fusty Long Wave for the golden oldies. Why has the BBC relegated to Long Wave its 500-part history of Britain, which began this week?

This Sceptred Isle, by Christopher Lee, is the essence of what the BBC exists to provide. Yet it can be heard only on Long Wave from 10.15 to 10.30am. There will be no

repeats. You would think that Radios 2, 5, or Radio 4 FM might have found room to give this production, BBC Radio's longest project since the serialisation of *The Bible*, a second airing.

But no. Indeed, any hope of appealing to a wider audience seems almost deliberately to have been sabotaged by casting Anna Massey as the headmistress narrator. "And this," her precise plosives seem to say, "is the English that we once could expect from the whole of the B-B-C."

Long Wave listeners are not all, as BBC engineers seem to think, old people reluctant to buy new sets, or homesick exiles. They include those who find FM reception tricky, particularly motorists. Whoever they are, they are in for further trauma. Starting tomorrow, for most of the day and the summer, their beloved Long Wave will be occupied by ball-to-ball cricket.

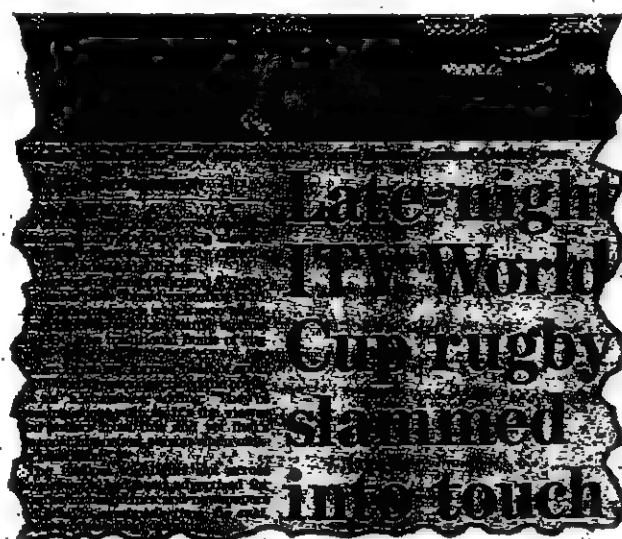
Good try, but TV needs conversion

South Africa's novice sports broadcasters are to blame for the mistakes in television coverage of the Rugby World Cup, Robert Burrows writes

The years of isolation in South Africa have taken their toll on the television coverage of the 1995 Rugby World Cup. While the South African team battles — almost literally at Port Elizabeth on Saturday night — to re-establish the standing of the world's leading rugby nation, the South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC) has been having a rough ride as host broadcaster to the tournament. Sadly, this is having an adverse effect on the programme ambitions and the output of the main world broadcasters gathered in Johannesburg, nerve centre of the SABC operation.

As far as ITV is concerned, early criticisms of its coverage were premature to say the least — if not, in some instances, downright spiteful. The opening day from Cape Town was a technical nightmare and although ITV's presenter, Alastair Hignell, not surprisingly "played and missed" a couple of times, he has travelled thousands of miles across the country to present, with distinction, programmes from Rustenburg, Pretoria, Durban and Johannesburg.

Criticism of the ITV schedule is also unfair when one considers that the normally sacrosanct *Coronation Street* has been moved on at least one occasion, to accommodate nearly 70 hours of coverage and 22 of the 32 games "live", including three matches on three days virtually back-to-back. In retrospect, it seems that such is the appetite for



The London Evening Standard highlights the criticism

World Cup rugby in the UK that ITV also could have gone "live" with Scotland v Tonga and maybe South Africa v Canada on Saturday night. But "live" — the programme would have suffered, again, from circumstances beyond ITV's control.

The match was just about to kick off at Port Elizabeth when the floodlights failed, resulting in a delay of nearly 45 minutes — yet another example of the hazards regularly confronting those trying to paint a coherent picture of the Rugby World Cup for the millions of television viewers in Britain.

Life is not easy for the world's leading broadcasters, and criticism is mounting at the daily briefing sessions from Australia (Channel 10), New Zealand (TVNZ), Ireland

(RTÉ), France (TF1) and my own team, which is finding it increasingly difficult to match the stunning pictures and maintain the high standard of programming set in 1991, when ITV was the host broadcaster and everything was under its control.

It is not as though SABC staff lack willingness or enthusiasm, or a passion for and a knowledge of rugby, but having been in the wilderness for so many years, the South African engineers and producers lack the experience necessary to handle one of the world's great sporting events.

Every day is a catalogue of recurring technical errors. Match coverage, while adequate, leaves much to be

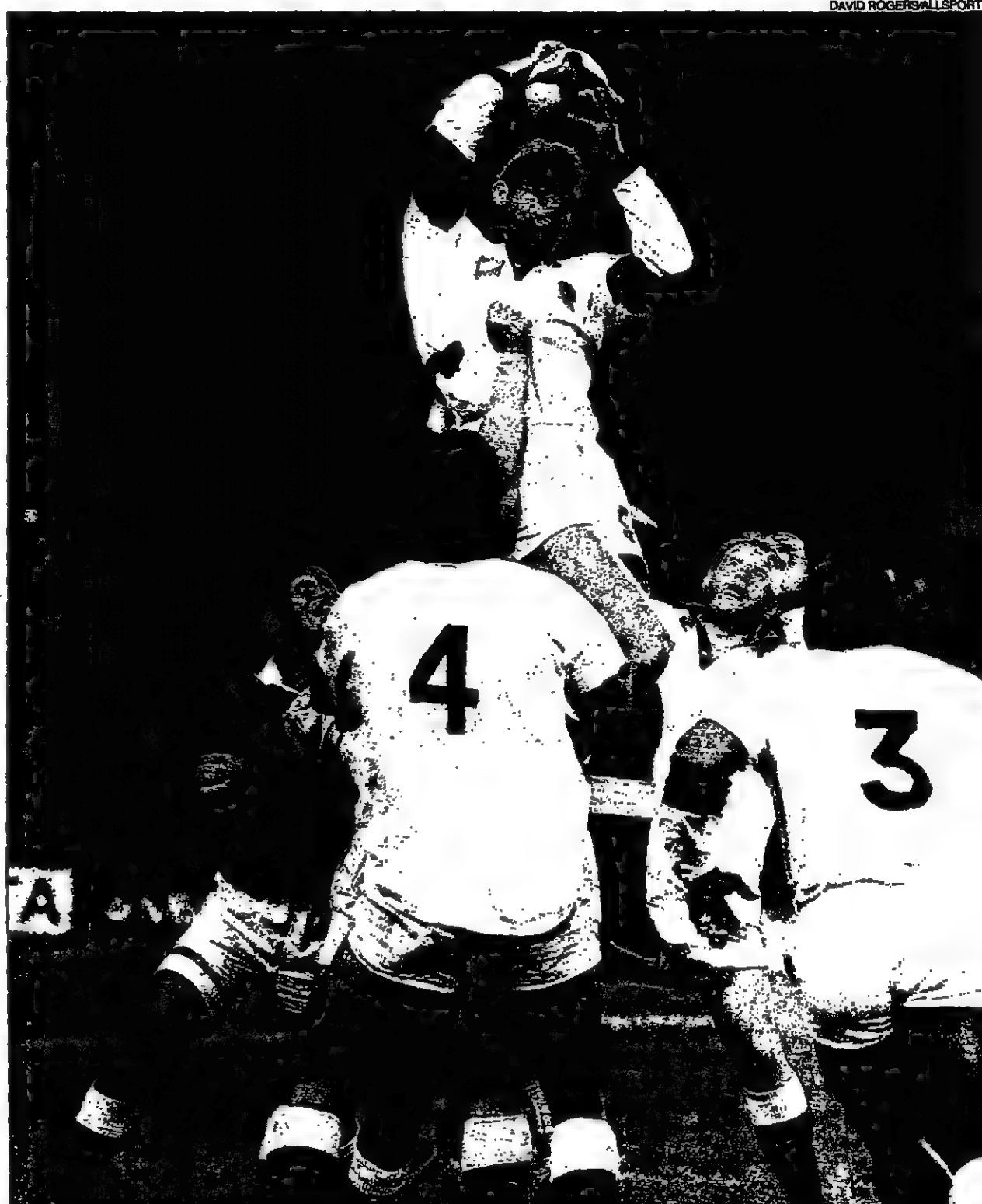
desired. We do not want slow-motion replays to obscure "live" action, we want better use of the hand-held radio cameras, more enlightened information in the captions, more reliable quality on the playing of the national anthems, more discipline on the pre-match timetable, and so on and so on, and let's get rid of that hideous Citizen clock!

Add to this some antiquated outside broadcast facilities, and it means that ITV is not able to deliver the quality programme that viewers take for granted in the UK, whether it be on ITV, BBC or even Sky Sports. The gulf in sports broadcasting between South Africa and the UK is enormous. There is much work to be done if the International Olympic Committee is to award the Games in 2004 to Cape Town, and SABC is asked to be host broadcaster.

In the short term, the board of directors of Rugby World Cup will have to consider carefully also whether it would not be in its best interest to set up the nucleus of a permanent host broadcasting team to ensure that this magnificent event gets the quality of television coverage it deserves.

The lessons of 1991 have not been learnt. With the 1997 World Cup Sevens in Hong Kong just around the corner and the 1999 finals heading for Wales and England — let alone qualifying matches in between — let us hope the Rugby World Cup does not make the same mistakes again.

● The author is executive producer of ITV's World Cup team



England's Richard West gets on top against Western Samoa, but television coverage has failed to hit the heights

With the end of the Troubles, Northern Ireland's press is looking anew at news issues. Michael Hanlon reports

When the guns went silent over Ulster last autumn, there was much rejoicing. One group of people, however, might have had less to be happy about — the many journalists living and working in the Province, who made a living out of 20 years of trouble. One of *Europe's* biggest stories since the Second World War was over. Surely there was nothing to write about now the place had reached a kind of normality? Not a bit of it, it seems. Far from being the local newspapers' worst nightmare, the end of the Troubles has been welcomed as a relief from a news agenda driven by a constant barrage of bombs, bullets and balacavas.

Tom Collins, Editor of *The Irish News*, said: "It certainly wasn't a bad thing for us. Northern Ireland is a place where there is always some-

Time to start digging again

thing going on. Issues of health, education and jobs took second place."

The editors of all three Northern Irish daily papers — *The Irish News*, the *Ulster News Letter* and the *Belfast Telegraph* — are optimistic about the future and have seen sales go up since the ceasefire. This is thought to be partly because people had become bored with reading Troubles stories and were glad of the chance to read about something new. The editors agreed that peace has allowed them to unleash their reporters on the issues that make the news in Britain: local politics, health, education and "normal" crime. But they admitted that the change was not easy.

"Reporting the Troubles became such a cliché," said Edmund Curran, the *Belfast Telegraph's* Editor. "Perhaps a whole generation of journalists here had an experience that was an aberration, bearing no resemblance to what other regional newspapers in the UK went through."

The papers in Northern Ireland have had no shortage of news over the past quarter of a century. During the darkest days of the Troubles, it seemed that all a reporter had to do was sit in the newsroom waiting for phoned reports of the latest outrage.

Geoff Martin, Editor of the *Ulster News Letter*, admitted a lot of lazy reporting occurred. "There were particular dan-

gers in sending reporters to some areas," he said. "So many stories were covered from the office. Most Troubles stories wrote themselves."

Collins added that the grim reality of the Troubles had an appalling effect on reporters. They often had to put themselves in extreme danger to cover their stories. The *Belfast Telegraph* has itself been bombed. Curran said: "Often our reporters would hear a bomb go off and be on the scene before anyone else."

So what are the big stories now that the hard men have laid down their guns (although not their baseball bats)? "A lot of major issues

have passed us by, for example, the privatisation of NIE [the Northern Ireland electricity company that recently announced a huge price hike]," said Martin.

The direct-rule government of Northern Ireland involves unelected quangos running everything from health to education and the police. They are not used to a probing press. Martin added: "There will be a lot of squealing pigs as vested interests are investigated. While everyone has been talking about turning swords into ploughshares, we in the press need to be turning ploughshares into swords."

One issue — that of press bias — looks certain to remain. The strongly Unionist *News-*

Letter has always referred to the Irish Republic as Eire — a common ruse to make the place seem more foreign. Now there may be a rethink. "Maybe it's a bit confrontational," said Martin. "We do now talk about the Republic of Ireland instead of Eire, sometimes."

The *Irish News* is a nationalistic newspaper. An enthusiastic supporter of the line taken by the Irish and American Governments over the peace process, its supporters the idea of a united Ireland by consent. Though it is no longer dominated by endless reports of priestly utterances, its Roman Catholic stance is clear.

Collins said: "We mustn't be apologetic for the fact that the *News Letter* is Unionist and *The Irish News* is nationalist. If we all merge into a wishy-washy mess, we aren't going to solve Northern Ireland's problems."

Films fail to pull the crowds

RUNNING themed seasons of films may be a convenient device to help schedulers fill those mid-afternoon and late-night slots. Alexandra Frezza writes, but do they help the ratings?

BBC2 and Channel 4 are both celebrating the centenary of the cinema with seasons of historic and classic films. Three of these make it into our top 20 ratings chart. From Channel 4 these include *Mean Streets*, Martin Scorsese's acclaimed drama starring Robert De Niro and Harvey Keitel, and *The Reckless Moment* with James Mason and Joan Bennett. BBC2 has *The Nutty Professor*, starring Jerry Lewis.

Channel 4 has also been running a season of westerns to accompany its *Wild West* documentary series, including *The Gunfighter* starring Gregory Peck, which is in our chart at number 17.

Although it is rare for the two minority channels to have so many entries in our charts, the audience figures — all below two million — are not exactly overwhelming. Normally Channel 4 and BBC2 can expect a



Field of Dreams with Kevin Costner

couple of peak-time films a week with audiences of two or three million.

Although ITV has only two films in the chart, they are in first and third place. Top of the list, with 9.2 million viewers, is the 1989 film *Field of Dreams*, now regarded as a classic. It was scheduled at 8pm on Wednesday May 17 in a successful attempt to halt the drift of viewers to Channel 4's *Brookside*, recently boosted by its much-publicised murder trial storyline.

THE TIMES TV TOP 20: FILMS

May 15 to 21, 1995

Programme	Date	Time	Channel	Producer	Audience millions All 4+
1 <i>Field of Dreams</i>	Wed 17	20.05	ITV	Universal Pictures/Gordon Co.	9.2
2 <i>The Package</i>	Tue 16	21.34	BBC1	Orion	5.6
3 <i>Blue Jean Cop</i>	Sat 20	22.50	ITV	Urbis Pict/Studio Ghibli/Canal	4.8
4 <i>Flight of the Intruder</i>	Fri 19	22.25	BBC1	Paramount Pictures	3.9
5 <i>Blue Lightning</i>	Tue 16	23.15	BBC1	Alan Sloan Inc	2.4
6 <i>Susan Slept Here</i>	Tue 16	14.15	BBC1	RKO Radio Pictures	1.9
7 <i>A Passage To India</i>	Sat 20	15.47	BBC2	EMI	1.7
8 <i>Mean Streets</i>	Sun 21	21.57	CH44	Warner Brothers International	1.6
9 <i>Dot And The Whale</i>	Sat 20	11.00	BBC1	Yoram Gross Films/Studio City Ltd	1.5
10 <i>The Reckless Moment</i>	Sun 21	13.15	CH44	Columbia Pictures Corporation Ltd	1.4
11 <i>Intimate Strangers</i>	Mon 15	15.05	BBC2	Nederlander TV and Film Prod	1.4
12 <i>The Stranger Within</i>	Mon 15	23.17	BBC1	Warner Brothers International	1.4
13 <i>Western Union</i>	Sat 20	14.15	BBC2	New World International	1.3
14 <i>The Iron Petticoat</i>	Thu 18	14.17	BBC1	20th Century Fox	1.2
15 <i>Nutty Professor</i>	Sat 20	12.25	BBC2	Paramount Pictures	1.2
16 <i>The Gunfighter</i>	Mon 15	22.58	CH44	20th Century Fox	1.2
17 <i>No Way To Treat A Lady</i>	Sat 20	23.48	BBC1	Paramount Pictures	1.1
18 <i>Father Brown</i>	Fri 19	14.20	CH44	Columbia Pictures Corporation Ltd	1.0
19 <i>Butterfield 8</i>	Thu 18	23.31	BBC1	MGM	0.9

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PROPERTY 37-38

The British take a lofty view of living



ARTS 39-41

Back at the kohli face: the new Dusty Springfield



SPORT 42-48

Agassi's dream shattered in French Open

TELEVISION AND RADIO
Pages 46, 47

THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

WEDNESDAY JUNE 7 1995

Royal Bank of Scotland to axe one in five managers

By PATRICIA TERHAN
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

ROYAL Bank of Scotland is cutting one in five of its assistant and branch manager jobs as part of an attempt to centralise decision-making and sell more "financial" products. With about 450 jobs expected to go between now and March, the axe will fall most heavily on jobs in London, where the number of managerial grades will fall 37 per cent, from 267 to 167.

The number of jobs to go has not been finalised, though cuts have been announced

in London, Manchester, Edinburgh, Liverpool, Glasgow and Aberdeen. The bank is working to reduce managerial grades in investment and Dundee. Sandy Boyle, deputy general secretary for the banking and finance union, in Scotland, said: "We believe that there will be a significant disruption in service."

However, Tony Schofield, the bank's director in charge of Project Columbus, the programme launched in 1992 that included cutting an estimated 3,500 out of 14,000 jobs in five years and restructuring the branches to introduce new technology, said: "The

logic of the changes is to improve the level of delivery to customers."

The cuts will leave some of the 600 branches without a manager — senior clerical assistants will take over — and will centralise lending decisions. Mr Boyle said that branches are being converted "into retail outlets, traditional banking services will no longer be provided in the branches."

He added that the scale of the reduction in managerial jobs has seen the staff's worst fears realised. Leaving branches without managers follows the lead set by other banks: Midland has 1,200 main branches

with a manager and another 530 sub-branches with either a manager or senior clerk in charge.

The bank describes the changes as creating "new roles in the new bank". The job cuts are the latest stage in Project Columbus, which has so far seen 2,000 jobs disappear.

Mr Schofield confirmed that the bank would cut some managerial jobs as part of the move away from having branch managers with responsibility for everything in their areas to a "sector-specific approach". In terms of numbers of lost jobs, he

said it was "an issue about which people have the skill base, aptitude and necessary personal characteristics to take up the new roles." As the structure changes, he said, "there is a mismatch of skills."

Until recently, the job cuts under Project Columbus have been among clerical staff and the bank has guaranteed that there would be no compulsory redundancies. However, Mr Schofield said that it cannot offer the same guarantee to managers.

The bank will spend £100 million in five years on new technology. The replacement of computer systems starts next year.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET

FT-SE 100	3880.0	(+3.4)
Nickel	1888.74	(+2.27)
New York	19060.08	(+236.35)
Dow Jones	4480.70	(+4.15)
S&P Composite	535.52	(+0.08)

Federal Funds	5%	(0%)
Long Bond	114%	(114%)
Yield	6.51%	(6.52%)

3-mth Interbank	6%	(6%)
Life long gr future (Jun)	100%	(100%)

New York	1.5800	(1.5800)
London	1.5800	(1.5800)
DM	2.2514	(2.2415)
FF	7.8990	(7.8450)
SF	1.6992	(1.6431)
Yen	135.35	(135.15)
£ Index	94.3	(94.2)

London	1.4170	(1.4108)
DM	4.9550	(4.9405)
SF	1.1685	(1.1590)
Yen	85.10	(84.77)
£ Index	86.0	(85.5)

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Camelot defends high pay for chiefs

By JON ASHTWORTH

CAMELOT GROUP, the National Lottery operator, went on the defensive yesterday, after revealing high levels of boardroom pay with its first set of profits.

Tim Holley, the chief executive, was paid more than £330,000 last year, including pension contributions, on the back of a bonus scheme that promised huge windfalls to the Camelot directors.

Labour attacked the "absolutely astonishing" bonuses, while Richard Branson called on Camelot to donate "excess" profits to charity.

The first full snapshot of Camelot's financial affairs show that it made a pre-tax profit of £10.8 million in the year to end-March. Sales in the first 20 weeks reached £1.2 billion, with £562 million paid in prizes, and £317 million raised for good causes — £90 million more than forecast. Camelot was left with a profit of £6.3 million after tax.

Directors received a one-off bonus of 50 per cent of base salary as a reward for launching the National Lottery on time — £120,000 in Mr Holley's case. Executive directors, whose salaries range from £145,000 to £331,367, stand to earn a similar bonus this year if targets are met. They stand to earn a one-off bonus of 140 per cent of base salary after 3½ years — half-way through the licence — if targets are exceeded.

Chris Smith, Shadow Heritage Spokesman, said: "They are getting these payouts for

meeting targets they set and know they are likely to meet. Many people will be wondering why some of this money cannot go to good causes." The Liberal Democrats joined the fray, saying: "The Camelot directors have good reason for getting bigger. They should change the company's share-back to the public."

Mr Branson, who lost out to Camelot in the race for the National Lottery licence, said: "Camelot are making far greater profits than forecast. They should take a fair return for the money invested, and pledge the rest to a charitable foundation to help small charities." Camelot said that it has set up a committee to investigate giving a share of its profits to charities and community projects.

Camelot's gross profit in the first 20 weeks hit £78 million — about 8 per cent of a £1.2 billion turnover — but the bulk was swallowed by operating costs of £68.8 million. Nearly £40 million went on advertising and marketing. A further £30 million in start-up costs have been charged to the profit and loss account. Sales are on course to hit £5 billion this year. Camelot expects to pay its first dividend to shareholders next year.

Ofcom, the regulator, is considering conducting a study into the type of people who gamble on the lottery after concern about "nationwide gambling mania" was expressed in the House of Lords.

Pennington, page 27
Winning formula, page 29

£140m boost to Tees

NORTHUMBRIAN Water, the company under bid threat from Lyonnaise des Eaux, will today announce plans for a £140 million effluent treatment plant on Teesside (Ross Tienman writes).

The plant, on a 40-acre site, is the cornerstone of a government/industry initiative intended to reinforce the part played by Teesside at the heart of the British chemical industry. Although designed primarily to help meet legal obligations to reduce the level of contamination discharged into the River Tees, the plant will also have spare capacity. That will facilitate the construction of new chemical plants, particularly by small and medium-sized specialist chemical companies, which might not otherwise come to the area.

Tim Eggar, Minister for Energy and Industry, said the chemical industry was now enjoying strong demand and profitability.



Lord Weinstock uses helicopter power yesterday to emphasise GEC/Textron's bid for the £2.6 billion army contract

GEC in US link for army contract

By ROSS TIEMAN
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

GENERAL Electric Company and Textron of America are discussing long-term collaboration in military projects after linking to compete for the £2.6 billion contract to supply an attack helicopter for the Army.

Lord Weinstock, GEC managing director, and James Hardymon, chairman of Textron, agreed that there were "a lot of things that we could do together."

The hint of further links came after a presentation to promote the Venom version of Textron's Bell Cobra helicopter for the Ministry of Defence contract. The Venom is competing against the Franco-German Tiger, offered by British Aerospace, and the McDonnell Douglas Apache, offered by Westland.

In an unprecedented public show of support for one of his company's projects, Lord Weinstock took the podium before a US Marine Corps Cobra flown to the grounds of the Imperial War Museum in London for the occasion.

GEC has upgraded its bid to offer Venom with a four-bladed rotor that makes it easily the military equal of either rival, at lower cost, he said.

Battle bids up, page 29

Windfall for Seeboard investors and customers

By MARTIN WALLER

SEEBOARD, the electricity company serving the South East, is to hand out a total of £170 million to shareholders and its two million customers over the next four years in one-off benefits, either higher dividends or price cuts.

The company surprised the stock market yesterday by announcing the windfall on the eve of the review of the prices the industry can charge.

Seeboard says the cash will come out of savings of up to £30 million a year over the next four years that have been achieved by cost cutting since privatisation. A total of £20 million will go to its customers in the form of lower charges and £10 million will be spent on enhancing dividends.

In addition, the company expects to hand over directly to shareholders its 7.3 per cent holding in the National Grid, in parallel with a one-off cash rebate to customers of at least £25 a household, costing a further £50 million. Sir Keith

Stuart, chairman, said: "The group has made cost reductions that are so significant, particularly over the past couple of years, that we see the strength both to reduce prices to customers, irrespective of what the regulator comes up with, and at the same time step up dividends."

Seeboard, the first of the 12 regional companies in England and Wales to report

Pennington, page 27

figures for the year to March 31, has set a tough target for the others to live up to over the next few weeks. A final dividend of 10.5p makes a total of 14.5p up by 23 per cent, well ahead of City forecasts.

In addition, the company says the unexpected "efficiency bonus" will mean an additional 4p on dividends over the next four years over and above any increases that would otherwise have been brought in.

From October, customers will see their standing charges cut by a quarter, or about £8 a year, following on from an earlier reduction of a fifth from last February.

In spite of a £12.8 million bill from repaying £54 million of government debt, pre-tax profits last year rose from £131.7 million to £142 million. The board is also bringing in tough new restraints on executive share options from this year that will require the shares to outperform and prices to fall.

Complaints about power companies fell by 14 per cent last year, according to the annual report of the electricity regulator. Only three companies saw a rise in complaints, led by Yorkshire Electricity where they rose 21 per cent. Better credit controls reduced the level of disconnections by 67 per cent to 1,228. Disconnections have fallen 98 per cent since 1990.

Nuclear timetable 'just feasible'

By MARTIN WALLER

THE Government's timetable to sell Nuclear Electric, probably by a stock market flotation, in a year's time is "just about feasible," said John Collier, the chairman. But the company and the Government had a hard task to achieve a float by June or July 1996. "Nobody should be under any delusions that this is a very tight timetable we're looking at," he added.

Nuclear Electric was releasing a set of financial figures for the year to March 31. The next such report is likely to be in the flotation prospectus.

The year saw a 53 per cent jump in operating profit to £1.2 billion and a 16 per cent cut in the cost of producing electricity, across the group, to 2.7p a unit, with the

best-performing AGR reactors, which will form the nucleus of the privatised company, down to 2.4p a unit. Pre-tax profits were sharply ahead, from £392 million in 1993-94 to £1.07 billion. Productivity rose 11 per cent and operating costs were down 24 per cent, to £1.67 billion.

Mr Collier said the company was still on target to achieve true profitability, without government financial support, in the current financial year. But for two one-off factors, the two-year price cap imposed by the industry regulator on all the generators and the cost of technical problems that caused a shut-down at two reactors in early 1995. Nuclear Electric would have been profitable even without the £1.25 billion income injected from the nuclear levy on electricity customers. As it

was, on this basis the operating loss was £33 million, an improvement of £401 million on the previous year.

The sensitive matter of executive share options and other remuneration had not yet been considered at Nuclear Electric. Mr Collier said he was disappointed his profits from options would not match those elsewhere in the electricity industry. "I'm not sure there are going to be any directors' share options," he said. "We're not looking for over-generous rewards — we recognise that situation has probably gone." Nuclear Electric said: "It should be obvious to everyone that directors will not enjoy the same easy pickings associated with earlier privatisations."

Pennington, page 27

Which environmental company's product is just as vital for silicon chips as for potato crisps?

For the full picture, see Company Results on Friday

SEC investigates IBM bid after shares double

By CAROLINE MERRELL IN BOSTON
AND GEORGE SIVELL IN LONDON

THE Securities and Exchange Commission, the chief American regulator, has launched an investigation into IBM's \$3.3 billion hostile bid for Lotus Development, the Boston-based software manufacturer.

The SEC is to examine the heavy trading in Lotus shares and options on Friday, ahead of the bid announcement on Monday. The increased share activity was enough to push the share price up by 11 per cent on Friday. The SEC refused to comment directly on any investigation,

but added it always looked at unusual price movements and options transactions ahead of any bid. On Friday 3,792,800 Lotus shares changed hands, nearly twice the average daily volume.

Those who bought shares in Lotus on Friday have nearly doubled their money, with the share price rising from \$33 to \$61.44 as the bid was announced at the start of American trading on Monday. It strengthened further to \$62 yesterday. Those who bought call options in Lotus have made even more of a killing - 1,000 Lotus call options on Friday would have cost \$350,000, yesterday they

would have fetched \$3.15 million. Institutional investors hold 85 per cent of Lotus shares. They include Fidelity, the investment company, which owns just over 9 per cent. Metropolitan Life, which owns life insurer Albany in the UK, is another big shareholder.

A large corporate move had been expected from IBM as part of its recovery strategy and some analysts had expected a pounce on a software maker such as Lotus. The high price of the IBM offer, however, was what surprised Wall Street the most.

IBM formally launched its \$3.3 billion bid for the Lotus software

group on Monday by saying that it was seeking shareholder approval to remove all six directors of Lotus and replace them with three of its own nominees, Mark Ewald, David Herschberg and John Sexton. The move was announced in the obligatory filing to the SEC as IBM launched its \$60 a share cash tender offer. IBM also filed a request with federal regulators for antitrust clearance to acquire Lotus. Its hostile bid follows five months of talks that failed to produce agreement on an offer.

The SEC filing revealed that IBM has agreed to pay CS First Boston \$3

million in fees for financial advice and a \$9 million transaction fee, payable when 50 per cent of Lotus shares are in the bag.

Lotus products include the widely used Lotus Notes software for linking computers, the Lotus 1-2-3 financial spreadsheet software and the Ami Pro word-processing program. If adapted for use on the IBM OS/2 operating system, they would step up the software battle with Microsoft.

Analysts interpreted the continued rise in Lotus stock above the bid terms as signs that some investors believe an even higher offer for Lotus may be forthcoming.

Bae joins regional aircraft venture

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH AEROSPACE has completed a joint venture agreement with Aerospatiale of France and Alenia of Italy to create the world's biggest regional aircraft company.

The deal, signed yesterday in Rome after six months of detailed talks, will lead to a phased merger of Bae's turbo-prop and regional jet businesses with ATR, the Franco-Italian turbo-prop specialist. A new limited company, yet to be named, will undertake marketing and support of the aircraft, which will be procured from the partner companies. The new, 900-strong head office team in Toulouse, France, will also assume responsibility for designing and developing new products.

Bae's spare centre in Weybridge, Surrey, will be injected into the new business.

and will take over the supply of spares for the entire aircraft range, embracing ATR, Jetstream and Avro aircraft. The company's training operation for customers will be progressively transferred to Naples, which is already the training centre for the ATR business. Altogether, 300 jobs will be lost in Britain. Many Avro and Jetstream marketing and head office staff will be invited to move to Toulouse.

Establishment of the joint venture company, which begins operation on January 1 next year, is an important strategic development for the world aerospace industry, which has suffered heavy losses because there are too many state-backed competitors building regional aircraft. Consolidation will allow the new partners to share the high cost of supporting their products. The proposals will now go before Karel Van Miert, the European Competition Commissioner, for approval.

The last time ATR sought a merger, with De Havilland of Canada, the deal was blocked by Sir Leon Brittan, then Competition Commissioner. But executives of the partner companies appear confident that approval for the ATR/Bae link will be forthcoming. Approvals may also be required from American authorities, since the partners have leading positions in the regional aircraft market there.

A deal will step up the pressure on smaller rivals to seek similar economies through collaboration. Early discussions are expected to begin with Daimler-Benz Aerospace (Dasa), whose demands to concentrate the European industry around its Fokker jet subsidiary and Dornier turbo-prop have been thwarted. Louis Gallois, head of Aerospatiale, is keen to restart talks with Dasa to end tension created between Aerospatiale and Dasa, the two leading partners in the Airbus Industrie jetliner consortium, because of the new Anglo-French alliance.

If Dasa can be brought back on board, he says, the Europeans have better hopes of winning a beauty parade being conducted by China and Korea to partner their joint project to develop a new regional jet. At present, Dasa and Aerospatiale/Alenia/Bae are competing independently against one another and Boeing of the US to be selected.

Bae, Aerospatiale and Alenia will each have a one-third share in the new marketing company. The decision to structure it as a Société par Actions Symétrique will enable the long-term liabilities on all aircraft sold after January 1 to be vested in the new business, capping Bae's exposure to fluctuations in the value of second-hand aircraft.

Helicopter battle, page 29

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Endorsing his product: Sir Gerald Whent, chief executive of Vodafone, makes a call before yesterday's figures

Fraud hits growth at Vodafone

By PHILIP PANGALOS

A SHARP increase in fraud and a rise in connection costs, as subscribers continued to grow, held back profit growth at Vodafone Group, Britain's leading mobile-phone operator.

Strong subscriber growth in Britain and overseas offset the effects of overseas start-up costs in new ventures and helped pre-tax profits climb 2 per cent to £371.1 million in the year to March 31. Turnover jumped 36 per cent to £1.15 billion with more than 2 million subscribers.

But an "unprecedented incidence of fraud and bad debt" cost Vodafone, where Sir Gerald Whent is chief executive, about £16 million in lost profits last year. Measures to stem the frauds are in place and their costs are expected to fall to £5 million this year.

There is a final dividend of 1.7p (1.4p), payable on August 17, lifting the total 20 per cent to 3.34p (2.78p), in spite of a drop in earnings to 7.8p (8.11p) a share. The shares added 10p to 212½p.

Bill Castell said: "The sales memorandum has not been published yet. But when it is, we will be looking at it very carefully." Amersham is the market leader in life science, which accounts for 45 per cent of turnover.

His remarks came as the group unveiled a 9 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £47.3

British 'cannot keep pace' with rivals

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

BUSINESS leaders yesterday welcomed a new examination of Britain's industrial competitiveness, which said that the improvement in UK companies' performance is so far not dramatic enough to keep pace with world-class foreign firms.

Details of the findings of a two-year inquiry into the shape and attitudes of companies carried out by the Royal Society of Arts were presented in London yesterday to business leaders.

The RSA inquiry proposes that companies change to an "inclusive" structure, in which full attention is given to a range of stakeholders, including customers, suppliers and employees, as well as to shareholders.

Michael Heseltine, President of the Board of Trade, said the RSA report was in line with the Government's own recent second White Paper on competitiveness. While Britain had some of the best companies in the world, he said, "the challenge is to

inspire more companies to be more ambitious about their own future".

Jack Cunningham, Shadow Trade and Industry Secretary, said that Labour agreed with the RSA's findings that Britain needed more of a "partnership approach" to building competitiveness.

Howard Davies, Director-General of the CBI, said: "The central conclusions of the report, that there are too few world-class companies in the UK and that a long tail of under-achievers are still unaware of their competitive weakness, are certainly correct." Tim Melville-Ross, the Institute of Directors' leader, said: "Companies should be given every possible encouragement to adopt best business practice."

Sir Adrian Cadbury, chairman of the Cadbury inquiry into corporate governance, congratulated the RSA on helping to define "the key measures of business success against which companies can assess their competitive standing."

Japanese trade surplus contracts

By COLIN NARBROUGH

JAPAN'S trade surplus contracted sharply in April, but the reduction appears unlikely to divert the Clinton Administration from its tough stance on opening up the Japanese car market.

Tokyo yesterday issued figures showing that the current account surplus, which encompasses trade in goods and services, narrowed by more than 18 per cent to \$11.3 billion, compared with the same month in 1994. It was the second, successive monthly fall.

The news came after President Clinton's pledge on Monday that America would stand firm on its demand that Japan improves market access to US cars and spares.

Washington has threatened punitive sanctions on \$5.9 billion of luxury cars from Japan unless Tokyo agrees to open its market by the end of the month. Both sides are supposed to meet this month, but disagree over timing.

Japan's surplus of tangible goods fell 6 per cent to \$12.5 billion in April, mainly reflecting a 39.7 per cent surge in imports as it took advantage of the strong yen to buy more foreign goods. Japanese exports were up 20.7 per cent.

In yen terms, the current account surplus fell by more than 34 per cent, continuing a five-month down trend.

In Tokyo, Sir Leon Brittan, European Trade Commissioner, yesterday reported a "substantial breakthrough" in talks with Tokyo about access for cars and parts to Japan.

Japanese figures showed that car imports had risen by 39 per cent in the first five months of this year to 136,400 vehicles. However, two-thirds of the cars were from Europe.

Amersham ponders US deal

By SARAH BARNALL

THE chief executive at Amersham International, the health sciences group, is planning to take a close look at Du Pont's life science business, which has been put up for sale.

Bill Castell said: "The sales memorandum has not been published yet. But when it is, we will be looking at it very carefully." Amersham is the market leader in life science, which accounts for 45 per cent of turnover.

His remarks came as the group unveiled a 9 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £47.3

million in the year to March 31. Exceptional gains of £4 million offset restructuring charges of £3.9 million.

The rise in profits outstripped a 6 per cent rise in underlying sales to £333.6 million, reflecting improved margins in its healthcare and life science divisions. Life science profits rose £2.2 million to £33.4 million, while industrial profits slide £1.5 million to £5.2 million.

Healthcare profits rose £4.3 million to £13.7 million. The final dividend is lifted to 12½p, making 17p. *Tempos*, page 28



Castell: profits up

Anglo-American air deal angers EU

By COLIN NARBROUGH
WORLD TRADE CORRESPONDENT

NEIL KINNOCK, the European Commissioner for Transport, yesterday warned the Government that it could face legal action over the bilateral air services agreement reached with America on Monday.

Air transport deals with America, whose big carriers have been forming strategic alliances with the European airlines before deregulation of the European Union's market, threatens to become a politically explosive issue at the EU transport ministers meeting in Luxembourg on June 20-21.

Although the Anglo-American deal falls short of the "open skies" arrangements that Washington has been negotiating with smaller members of the EU, Mr Kinnock insists that EU states have

no right to conclude separate deals with third countries.

Brussels argues that America is pursuing a divide-and-rule policy in air transport that will work against Europe's overall interests. A spokeswoman for Mr Kinnock said yesterday that he was "disappointed" by the British move, announced by Brian Mawhinney on Monday and which came in spite of a letter from Mr Kinnock to Mr Mawhinney last week spelling out the European Commission's objections to bilateral agreements.

Last week, Brussels issued a public warning of legal action against Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Luxembourg and Sweden, if they went ahead with separate deals that were already initiated with the Americans.

Commenting on Britain's deal, Mr Kinnock's spokeswoman said: "We re-

serve the right to take legal action". The Department of Transport in London said that Mr Mawhinney has made plain to Mr Kinnock that the Government considers itself competent to negotiate with Washington on aviation matters and rejects Brussels view.

The Anglo-American agreement, which foresees a number of liberalisation moves, will allow a second US carrier, probably United Airlines, to fly between Chicago and Heathrow, while British Airways will be allowed to increase its services between Heathrow and Philadelphia. Britain and America have pledged to press further for a broad "open skies" accord and plan more talks this summer. The Commission claims that US policy is designed to take business away from European airlines as they restructure in time for open competition within the EU from 1997.

Business Round

Fox TV challenge to 'big three' in America

SHARES of The News Corporation, parent company of *The Times*, surged yesterday after reports that Fox Broadcasting has raised prime time television advertising rates substantially. Analysts said that Fox made progress in catching up CBS, ABC and NBC, the big three American television networks, by securing about US\$1 billion of prime time advertising commitments for the financial year beginning July 1. This compares with 1994-95 advertising commitments of US\$720 million and is almost double 1993-94 advertising revenues. Prime time advertising represents about 50 per cent of total broadcast network revenue.

Jessica Reif, the media analyst at Merrill Lynch, said: "This suggests there are now 'the big four' networks as opposed to three." In mid-April, Fox TV said it had broken into the big league in the early part of 1995 by surpassing CBS in the key prime time ratings measure of adults aged 18 to 49. Reports of the higher rates yesterday sent News Corp shares up 26 cents to close at \$7.84 (£3.53) in Australia, the highest close since November 1994. In London, the shares closed up 20p at 350p. The market was surprised at the large size of the prime time advertising increases by the big US networks for the remainder of 1995, estimated to be 25 per cent up on 1994.

Ascot races into profit

ASCOT HOLDINGS, the former Control Securities, made trading profits of £9.6 million (£7.9 million) on continuing operations in the year to March 31. Pre-tax profits of £51.8 million (£58.8 million loss) included a £52 million book surplus from the purchase at a heavy discount of non-bank debt. After last December's restructuring, Ascot's net deficit of £27 million has been turned into net assets of £55 million. Ascot is to continue selling its property, pub and hotel assets.

Staveley moves ahead

STAVELEY INDUSTRIES, the weighing machines, electrical services and salt group, has reaped early benefits from the reorganisation of its measurement division. The group's operating profits rose 13 per cent in the year to April 1 on a £4.7 million rise in turnover to £342 million. The measurement division increased profits from £5.1 million to £6.6 million. Final dividend is held at 6.2p, payable August 8, to make 8.5p for the year.

Chiltern seeks cash offer

THE board of Chiltern Radio has expressed concern at last month's surprise all-paper bid from GWR, the commercial radio operator based in Bristol, and insists on a cash alternative before it even considers GWR's £19.3 million offer. Chiltern, which operates in the Home Counties and the West Country, added that it is in talks with five other parties. GWR offered 2.38 of its shares for each share in Chiltern, putting a current value of 32p on each Chiltern share.

Slow start for Meyer

MEYER INTERNATIONAL, the company that owns Jewsons, the builders merchants, gave warning yesterday of poor trading for the current year, due to the weak housing market. Meyer reported a 24 per cent profits rise to £51.6 million, but the current year has not started well. The company said: "Trading in each of our key markets is more difficult than was the case 12 months ago." Meyer has raised the dividend from 10.8p to 11.5p.

NSM restores payout

NSM, the mining group which lost out to RJR Mining in last year's coal privatisation, is restoring its dividend and paying 4p a share for the year ended March 31, after raising pre-tax profits 190 per cent to £6.1 million. The company said that its £40 million rights issue last year had enabled it to modernise its fleet and increase its coal reserves. The cash also reduced the group's annual interest bill by £1.6 million to £6.1 million. The group's turnover rose 10 per cent to £123 million.

Anglian plans buyback

DEARER raw materials and aggressive pricing, coupled with more lower margin business hit profits at Anglian Group, the UK's biggest double glazing company that is also planning to buy back up to 10 per cent of its share capital. Pre-tax profits fell £4 million to £21.1 million in the year to April 1 on sales ahead £16.6 million to £193.5 million. Trading at Anglian Windows remains tough, with orders since January down slightly on the previous year. The unchanged 6.2p final makes a repeat 10.3p.

Darby Group up 42%

DARBY GROUP, by concentrating on high-quality safety glass and moving out of bulk merchandising, boosted its pre-tax profits by 42 per cent to £1 million in the year to February 28. The company benefited from the introduction of its rapid delivery service and a new factory in Wolverhampton, which opened in December. Darby is paying a 1p final dividend on August 21, making 1.9p - an increase of 58 per cent. The group is to move its year-end to December.

Blacks Leisure slides

LOSSES from Quaser, the football boot brand, and Skechers, the fashion footwear brand, hit profits at Blacks Leisure, the sports and camping group. Pre-tax profits fell from £900,000 to £600,000 in the year to February 28, but the previous year included an £800,000 exceptional disposal profit. Sales rose 8.8 per cent to £65.6 million. The final dividend was held at 1.5p, making a total of 2.25p. The dividend, due October 6, is being paid from earnings of 1.62p a share (2.4p).

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□ Power company's generosity knows no bounds □ Lottery profits under fire □ Flotation 'non-starter' must be taken seriously

Sparks fly at Seeboard

□ SEEBOARD broke most of the rules yesterday, and sent several of the other regional electricity companies into an absolute fury. Whether the gamble was worth it will be clear in due course; more interesting, for now, are the company's motives for causing such disarray.

Given the abundance of goodies on offer, the share price, on any normal reading of the prospective yield, should have leapt by a pound rather than a few pence. The company has presaged a bonanza for shareholders, kept customers sweet and chucked in some corporate penitence over share options to boot.

A 23 per cent rise in the dividend would have translated into an extraordinary 57 per cent rise in the new dividend. Instead, analysts who had been factoring in the usual inflation plus 10 per cent into their calculations for the current year were forced to add on another 4p a share, guaranteeing a rise in the 40 per cent region.

At the same time, the customers are kept happy with a new price regime, imposed unilaterally, that equates to the sort of numbers much of the City expects. Professor Littlechild to come out with in a few weeks' time. Seeboard has not only preempted him; it has said, firmly

and on the record, that if his imposition is more generous than its own, the company will stick to its own larger price cuts.

Seeboard has also given a firm indication of what it wants from the review, a one-off cut spread evenly across the industry rather than regional variations to take account of individual company performance. Indeed, the implied rider is that regional variations would push it towards a Monopolies and Mergers Commission reference, a view utterly at variance with Eastern, which has called publicly for individual low use of system charges to be recognised, and itself threatened to go to the MMC if they are not.

So much for the industry presenting a united front to the regulator.

As their contribution to the messy row over share options, Seeboard's directors say none of this year's options can be exercised unless the company's shares are among the top four performers in the sector, and its prices are among the four lowest.

Such generosity to shareholders, such keenness to stay in with the regulator, such concern over

squeaky-clean standards of corporate governance are all very commendable. Significantly, Seeboard is one of the main bid candidates among the 12, and its directors have now done their best to make it bid-proof. They will presumably be disappointed by the share price reaction yesterday, even if the price can be expected to move higher again once the market absorbs the full extent of their message. The last company to respond to takeover threat with such generosity, of course, was called Northern Electric — and it brought the wrath of the regulator down on the sector as a result.

Branson attacks Camelot

□ MEASURED in terms of sales, the success of the National Lottery is indisputable. In the space of just four and a half months, the British public's pent-up gambling instincts, traditionally reserved for events such as the Grand National and the Derby, have found reflection in a spend of close on £1.2 billion. Retailers, estate agents and



government policies have failed to capture the public's imagination but Camelot's dream machine is still pulling in the punters.

Camelot's 1994-95 results are accompanied by a host of statistics, high on the list (unsurprisingly) being the fact that some £317 million — representing 26.6 per cent of sales — has been raised for "good causes". The Government, courtesy of lottery duty, VAT and corporation tax, has raked in £156 million, or 13.1 per cent of turnover. Prizes totalling £562 million amount to 47.2 per cent of the take. Commission, paid out to retailers, is struck at £60.7 million — 5.1 per cent. Over to Camelot. Operating costs, involved in establishing one of the world's

largest lotteries, amounted to £88.7 million, or 7.5 per cent of turnover. Little flak on this count but then we come to the dreaded word: profit. Pre-tax profits of £10.8 million fall to £6.3 million net, just 0.5 per cent of sales.

Sir George Russell, Camelot's chairman, and Tim Holley, chief executive, have long been aware of the gathering storm clouds. Russell pointed out that apart from providing equity funding of £50 million, the Rascal/De La Rue/Cadbury Schweppes/ICL and GTECH consortium has guaranteed £40 million in the event of the revocation of Camelot's licence — but one aspect of a high-risk strategy.

The reactions were predictable. Richard Branson, who lost out in the National Lottery tender, accused Camelot of making "huge monopoly profits" and suggested that the consortium should donate a "chunk" of profits to smaller charities. Holley's remuneration package, long on incentive payments, emerges at £443,000. Camelot's 1995-96 sales target is £5 billion, with the long-term forecast over the licence period remaining at

£32 billion. Maintaining the momentum, should sales of instant games fall off, will be no small feat.

The race for nuclear fusion

□ GIVEN his understandable chagrin at missing out on the share option gravy train in the electricity industry, John Collier at Nuclear Electric might do well in his next public presentation to omit from his list of the drawbacks of government ownership the ambiguous phrase "limiting our options".

Mr Collier was yesterday calling for the option to expand rather than anything more personally remunerative. But the sale of what may eventually be called British Nuclear, long regarded as a non-starter in the City, is now going to have to be taken seriously, at least by those who will earn the resulting fees.

Rumour suggests that of the essentials to a float, at least one, the appointment of a merchant banker and broker to the remodelled company, is running a little

behind. In pole position for the first must be Morgan Stanley, already acting, in the shape of Francis Maude, former financial secretary to the Treasury, for Nuclear Electric. James Capel, it is whispered, is not badly placed for the brokership role.

Three other issues loom large in the coming year. The Magnox stations need to be backslashed off, and Scottish Nuclear soldered on, this last carrying with it a real risk of personality clash. But the biggest problem, if only through bureaucratic inertia, will be the granting of the necessary discharge licences by the health and safety authorities to the successor body.

Indeed, the schedule, as Mr Collier admits, is a tight one. Any slippage, with an election due by April 1997 at the latest, could mean meltdown.

Insurance policy

□ THE bigger they are, the faster they rebound. Lord Cairns jumped ship from SG Warburg after his ill-conceived merger plan with Morgan Stanley fell apart. Warburg was transformed from world class bank to wretched bid target. Lord Cairns has washed ashore at BAT Industries, to govern its tobacco and insurance businesses. Judging by past events, the group should prepare to repel boarders.

Thames pours cold water on rebates for customers

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT, FINANCIAL EDITOR

THAMES WATER boosted pre-tax profits 26 per cent to £304 million on a 6 per cent rise in turnover to £1.17 billion in the year to March 31. But it disappointed the City by failing to come up with any special dividends or customer rebates and its shares dropped 8p to 500p.

Instead, the dividend was raised 12.4 per cent to 25.3p with a 17.1p final and the board said it intended to deliver steady year-by-year above-inflation increases in dividends. If necessary by running down dividend cover from 2.9 times to nearer the market average of two. David Luffman, Thames's finance director, said: "We are not a gimmicky company, we take a strongly long-term view."

Mike Hoffman, chief executive, said the price increases allowed to Thames in last year's regulatory review were low relative to most water groups and did not leave room for special handouts to customers. But he said Thames's charges were the lowest of any privatised water group and it intended to keep them the lowest for the next five years. He said the company's low costs would give it a strong advantage if it were possible to sell water in other areas via a grid. In the utility business, operating costs rose only 0.2 per cent last year. Thames also managed to cut its borrowings

by £60 million to £611 million, despite spending £306 million on capital investments (down from £366 million). Loans fell to 30 per cent of shareholders' funds of £2.94 billion and Thames now expects to keep gearing at about this level, which is less than projected.

The group is planning further cost cutting, from procurement and technical more than from staff cuts. Sir Robert Clarke, the chairman, said: "Thames was confident it could cut costs by more than assumed in the price review and make more improvements in service."

The group's troubled international water engineering and contract businesses continued to make losses. The reduced deficit of £13.9 million on sales of £128 million was mainly due to start-up marketing costs in the search for contracts to design, build and operate plants abroad. Contracts have been agreed in Shanghai and Malaysia, but the hoped-for contract at Izmit in Turkey has been delayed. Mr Hoffman said the business would not perform until such contracts were running.

The salaries of the chairman and chief executive have again been frozen, but executive directors will earn performance bonuses for the first time in three years.

Tempos, page 28

Camelot a winner for backers

Racal looks for data arm deal

RACAL ELECTRONICS is actively considering selling its data communications products arm, or looking at a joint venture, after saying yesterday that volume shortfalls and problems in getting products to market had persisted (Christine Buckley writes).

The company, which reported trading profits up 23 per cent to £61.3 million on turnover up 7 per cent, failed to revive the data communications division as much as it had hoped, although it believed the poor market conditions had largely passed.

David Elsbury, chief executive, said that the ideal option would be a joint venture, although sale would be welcomed if the price was suitable. The results of the data communications division were flattered by benefits from Camelot. Operating profits in that division climbed from £3.5 million to £14.3 million.

Racal profits benefited by £8.4 million from the success of Camelot, the lottery consortium in which it has a 22.5 per cent stake. The total dividend is 5p, up from 4.25p, with 3.25p payable on August 23. Racal's pre-tax profits were £58.3 million (£26.4 million).

Tempos, page 28

Happy note for profits at De La Rue

BANKNOTE orders in the developing world and identity card orders for the elections in South Africa and Mozambique helped keep results healthy at De La Rue, the specialist printing group, in spite of the March profits warning (Christine Buckley writes).

The company, which saw the value of its shares slide 14 per cent three months ago when it said trading conditions for its German subsidiary were proving testing, yesterday posted an increase in pre-tax profits of 21.5 per cent to £151.5 million. It raised its year's dividend 15 per cent to 23p, with a final payment of 16p, payable on August 14. A chunk of those profits — £72 million — came from Portals, the banknote paper maker De La Rue bought in December.

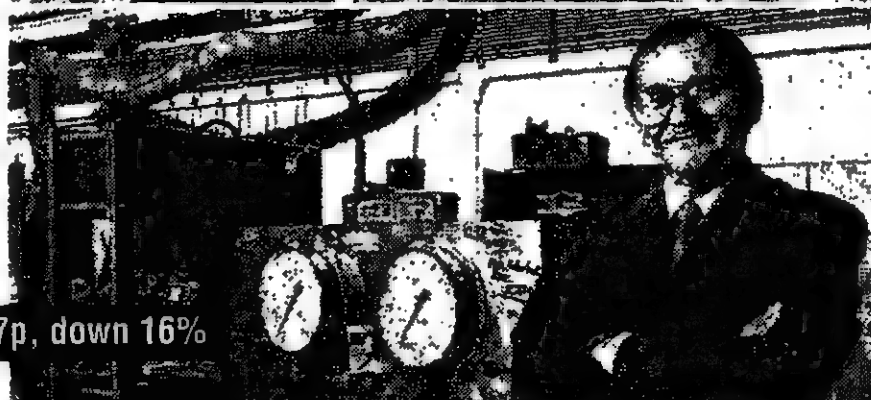
Also included in the profits was a £2.4 million boost from the company's 22.5 per cent stake in Camelot. De La Rue's accounting policy means that it has taken the full cost of its share in the start-up into this year's figures.

Analysts, some of whom had doubted the wisdom of buying Portals, said that the revised £160 million expected from the disposal of Portals' associated interests was disappointing.

Nuclear Electric's excellent year. From the people who made it.



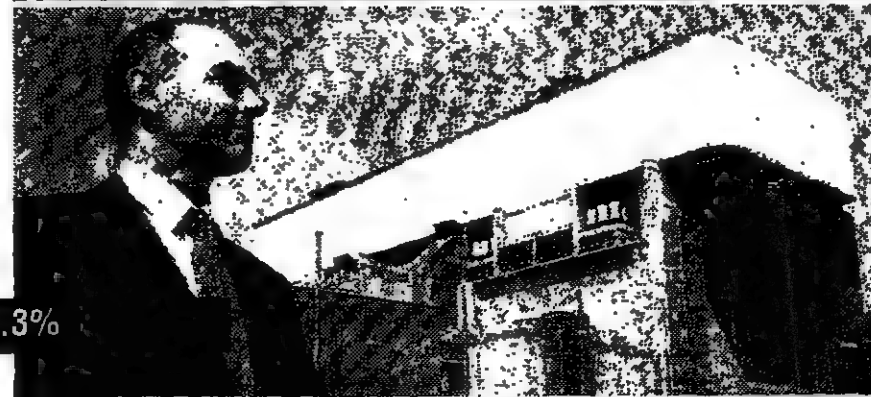
Operating profit*: £1.218bn, up 53%



Operating cost per kWh: 2.7p, down 16%



Productivity: 6.3 GWh, up 11%



Market share: 22.3%



Sizewell B: up and running

Nuclear Electric are delighted to announce another excellent performance. It builds on a track record of success, culminating in the announcement that our AGRs, together with Sizewell B, are to be privatised. This now gives us the welcome opportunity to compete on equal terms with other generators in the private sector.

The five years since Nuclear Electric's formation have brought a change in the climate for nuclear generation. Over that period, our operating profit has increased by £1.2 billion; operating costs per unit have all but halved; turnover has increased by 41%; and productivity has more than doubled.

In the year to 31st March 1995, lower operating costs, including the benefits of new contracts with British Nuclear Fuels plc, have enabled us to post a further increase in profit. The year was

crowned by the completion, on time and within budget, of the construction of Sizewell B. This fine achievement was duly recognised with the Construction Industry's Supreme Award for the best project of 1994.

Looking ahead, I expect privatisation to bring the commercial flexibility needed for prosperity and growth at home and overseas. It will be success in the market place that decides nuclear power's future role in the energy mix of the 21st century. That is just as it should be. We accept and welcome that challenge.

JOHN COLLIER,
CHAIRMAN, NUCLEAR ELECTRIC
June 1995



If you would like to visit one of our nuclear power stations or receive a copy of our report and accounts, please call us free on 0800 611 600.

STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Big turnover in Fisons on Zeneca bid speculation

JUDGING by the high-level of turnover in Fisons, investors may be forgiven for thinking that the hunt is about to become the hunt.

Fisons has been locked in talks with rival Medeva about the possibility of it making an agreed offer for more than two months. Yesterday the Fisons share price climbed 8p to 181p as talk of a bid from Zeneca continued to do the rounds in City wine bars. Speculators claim also that Zeneca may itself be under the threat of a bid from Hoffman La Roche, the Swiss pharmaceutical group, and may therefore turn its attention to Fisons as a poison pill.

Fisons has been regarded as a takeover candidate for many years. By the close of business almost 10 million shares had changed hands. Not bad for a stock where market-makers will normally only make a price in 50,000 shares at a time. Zeneca finished 3p better at 955p.

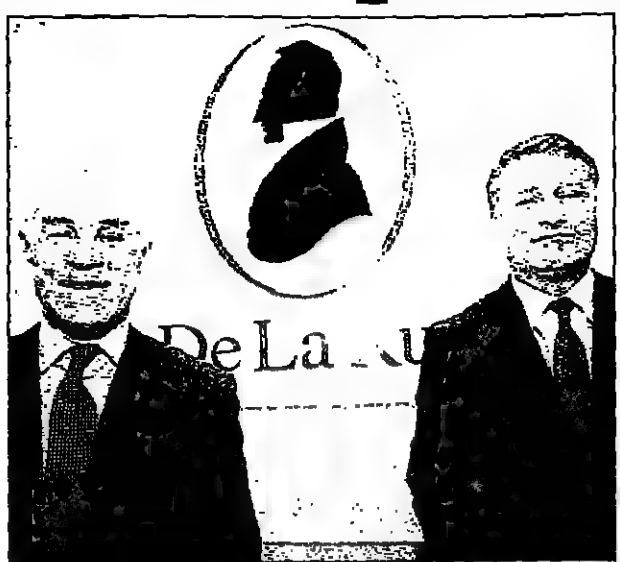
The rest of the equity market spent a lacklustre session, with prices retreating from an early lead of eight points. Only a positive start to trading on Wall Street managed to lift them back into positive territory, with the FT-100 index finishing 3.4 points up at a new high for the year of 3,380.0. A total of 655 million shares were traded, but many investors remained cautious before today's meeting between the Chancellor and the Governor of the Bank of England.

Vaux, the Sunderland-based drinks group, stood out with a rise of 6p to 254p on talk of stakebuilding. The last company to build up a stake in Vaux was Waterman's acquisition of Dudley, 2p better at 529p.

Boots, the chemist, continued to attract revived institutional support, with the price adding 6p to 533p as almost 2 million shares went through the market. It stretches the rise during the past two days to 17p.

Elsewhere in the retail sector, Laura Ashley remained steady at 81p after weekend reports that Georgette Mosbacher, the American businesswoman, wanted to buy the company. Some of the speculative support for Laura Ashley also rubbed off on Body Shop, 6p dearer at 130p.

Full-year figures for Rascal Electronics were boosted by a first-time £3.4 million contribution from Camelot.



Jeremy Marshall, left, and Les Cullen, of De La Rue

the National Lottery organiser. But the group's performance was marred by a poor performance from its data products division. Brokers such as Credit Lyonnais Laing have pencilled in £35 million for Rascal next year, with a £25 million contribution from Camelot expected. But De La Rue, where Jeremy Marshall is chief executive and Les

ommendation to a hold, and is said to have cut its profit forecast for the current year by £12 million.

The sharp rise in new subscribers has resulted in sharply higher costs at Vodafone, the mobile telephone operator, up from £84 million to £187 million. As a result, pre-tax profits last year grew only 2 per cent to £371.1 million.

Full-year figures from fast growing European Colour lived up to expectations, with a 53 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £1.87 million. The dividend was raised 48 per cent to 1.7p.

□ GILT EDGED: Gilts opened lower after profit taking, with prices soon testing their support levels. But talk that a big buyer had begun mopping up US Treasury bonds within the 10-year range spilled over into London, where prices ended with modest gains on the day. The September Long Gilt touched £108 1/4, before closing at £108 1/8, a 4p rise on £107 3/4, while the 4p, 40,000 contracts were completed.

Index-linked issues had a better time, ending with gains stretching to 1 1/2, especially among the 10 to 15-year coupons. Among conventional issues, benchmark Treasury 8 per cent 2013 fell a tick to £102 1/2, while at the shorter end, Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was unchanged at £102 1/2.

□ NEW YORK: Buying momentum, helped by IBM's unexpected bid for Lotus, continued to boost the market at midday. The Dow Jones industrial average was up 4.15 points at 4,480.70.

There was also a handsome

million. The group boosted a total of 2 million subscribers at the year-end and that figure is currently growing at 90,000 a month.

Shareholders were rewarded with a 20 per cent increase in dividend and a wave of renewed US buying lifted the shares 10p to 212 1/2p. By the close almost 8 million shares had been traded.

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reward for shareholders of Seaboard, which kicked off the electricity reporting season, with a 23 per cent increase in dividend to 14.5p. This was after an 8 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £142 million. The group says it has spotted a way of saving £30 million over the next four years and has set aside £10 million, or 4p a share, to pay in extra dividends. Customers will also receive a £25 rebate after flotation of the National Grid. The price finished 1 1/2p higher at 395p.

But there will be no rebate for customers of Thames Water, down 8p to 500p. Instead the company says it intends to keep its prices below the level stipulated by the industry regulator.

Welpac, the do-it-yourself products packaging group, slipped 1p to 9p after announcing it was in bid talks, but said any offer was likely to be below the current market price.

NSM, the coal producer, celebrated a return to the dividend list with a rise of 7p to 109p. The 4p payout accompanied a rise in pre-tax profits from £2.1 million to £6.1 million.

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MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):	
Dow Jones	4480.70 (+4.15)
S&P Composite	535.52 (+0.08)
Tokyo:	
Nikkei Average	19660.99 (+236.31)
Hong Kong:	
Hang Seng	9497.83 (+72.54)
Amsterdam:	
AEX Index	435.23 (+2.13)
Sydney:	
ASX 200	2020.1 (+8.4)
Frankfurt:	
DAX	2146.40 (+10.14)
Singapore:	
Strait Times	2190.98 (+27.05)
Brussels:	
General	7706.69 (+12.00)
Paris:	
CAC-40	1965.94 (+3.34)
Zurich:	
SIX Index	4590.80 (+4.40)
London:	
FT-100	3380.00 (+3.4)
FT-SE 100	3380.00 (+3.4)
FT-SE 250	3700.90 (+0.8)
FT-SE 100	1678.7 (+2.4)
FT-SE 100	1377.53 (+1.7)
FT-SE 100	1658.74 (+2.7)
FT-SE 100	1775.70 (+2.3)
FT-SE 100	114.64 (+0.0)
FT-SE 100	95.30 (+0.3)
FT-SE 100	2390
SEAG Volume	655.95
US (Dow Jones)	137.62 (+0.08)
US (S&P)	1.582 (+0.00)
German Mark	2.2517 (+0.0000)
Exchange Index	843.10 (+1)
Bank of England official rate (Hpm)	1.0000
ESR	1.0000
ESR	1.0000
RPI	149.0 Apr (3.3%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

Brit Aero Cap U/P	728	+
Dunelm U/P	105	...
Dunelm U/P	105	...
Woolworth Worldwide	126	...
Grubbs Group (122)	126	...
Gus Carver (80)	91	...
Langdon Foods (3)	3	...
Oryx India	650	...
Oryx India Wts	350	...
Procast Int (125)	141	...
Schroder Inc Gwth Wts	107	+
Schroder Inc Gwth Wts	28	+
Silk Industries (125)	135	...

RIGHTS ISSUES

Daniels (5) n/p (34)	25	...
David Brown n/p (205)	28	...
Prime People n/p (4)	1	...
Regal Hotel n/p (35)	4	...
Scott/New Non-Int n/p	39	...

MAJOR CHANGES

Royal Bk of Scot	438p (+14p)
Prism Leisure	151p (+10p)
Brammer	400p (+10p)
Lex Service	394p (+11p)
Delta	530p (+4p)
Johnson Matthey	889p (+14p)
Motors	683p (+10p)
Smiths Ind	534p (+10p)
Assoc Bnt Food	670p (+18p)
General Accident	645p (+10p)
Smiths Ind	530p (+10p)
Stake Bros	589p (+14p)
Vodafone	212p (+10p)
Micro Focus	753p (+15p)
CPI Armas	228p (+12p)
Unigala	413p (+8p)
Commercial Union	640p (+10p)

FALLS

Meyer Int	307p (-12p)
Photo-Me	206p (-13p)
Royal East	250p (-8p)
Carbury Schweppes	478p (-8p)
Amersham	884p (-17p)
De La Rue	813p (-14p)

Closing Prices Page 30

TEMPUS

Communication breakdown

RACAL is no ageing rock star. It is realistic. While it was once the latest thing in data communications products, it knows those days have gone. Newcomers are unencumbered by a broad line business with a large, conservative customer base such as Racal's. The new, smaller firms rush out to develop products and bring them to market rapidly. Racal has struggled to keep up.

Its efforts to whip data comms products into shape have been vigorous — 50 per cent of the first- and second-line managers in the US, where the business is largely centred, have been replaced. But Racal would probably be better diversifying itself of a business where technology is moving too fast.

More money is being ploughed into research and development and efforts are being focused on fewer products but Racal

admits it would sell quickly at the right price. The products division, valued at about £175 million, was courted last year by Cray Electronics. Racal did not want such a suitor but has made it clear it would consider other offers or a joint venture once it has knocked the division into an attractive state.

The loss of data comms products would not greatly affect areas where Racal enjoys success. Racal has discovered that the maintenance and operation of communications networks for businesses is more profitable and less messy than manufacturing. The City's worries about the data products division is the latest sign of the difficulties of remaining competitive in hardware manufacturing. The shares, still on 19 times earnings despite yesterday's fall, look pricey until the uncertainty over data comms is resolved.

Not bad for a low-growth utility business, you might think. But it is not good enough for today's City fund managers. They marked Thames down as far as they had marked Anglian up the day before, confirming mighty Thames as the lowest rated in the sector — save South West. At 500p, the shares yield 6.4 per cent (against 4.6 per cent at newly trendy North West), rate only

seven times earnings and sell below book asset value.

This is a classic case of utility blues. There are special factors. Thames has to prove the worth of its international water engineering businesses, so far mainly notable for write-offs. But the main special factor is that Thames is not doing any thing special: no generous price limits, no new-found crowd of gold to share between customers and investors, no share buyback, just plain vanilla utility growth.

At this moment, however, keeping your head down looks a good policy. Fashion change fast in this claustrophobic sector and Thames should outperform from this low base.

On top is the slump in the industrial quality safety assurance business. Six months ago, Amersham had a p/e of nearly 21 times — the highest in the UK health sector. It is now on about 15 times, a fairer reflection of the group's true worth.

Prospects rely heavily on the performance of those branded products. Those for Myoview are solid, but Amersham needs to shift Amersham's use to earlier stage bone cancer sufferers

and stem the slide in Ceretec sales in order to make significant leaps ahead. More promising is Amersham's drive to expand its geographical spread, particularly into Japan, and its acquisitions of small business with promising technologies, such as Fluorescence.

MEYER made an aggressive pitch for volume business from housebuilders at about the same time as contractors geared up housing business. Since then the human market has subsided and Jewson, Meyer's builders merchant subsidiary, has been working hard to build margins.

The problem facing Jew-

son is that it needs volume to make money. Maintaining a visible presence in the market means running numerous outlets and therefore carrying high overheads.

Meyer trimmed its cost base aggressively in the recession in the hope that a recovery in turnover would boost the net margin. But the revenue boost never came and small builders — the mainstay of the repair and maintenance market — are short of work.

Luckily for Meyer, the company is financially sound. Better stock control systems allowed it to keep a tight rein last year on cash, compared with the previous year when a working capital build-up cost the company £47 million. Strong cash generation could bring new problems: Meyer's capital expenditure is minimal and gearing — low at 13 per cent — could fall further. Unless Meyer finds a substantial acquisition, it will face de-

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COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE

Commodity	Price	Change
Cocoa	102.00	+0.25
Wheat	102.00	+0.25
Barley	102.00	+0.25
Maize	102.00	+0.25
Soyabean	102.00	+0.25
Wheat	102.00	+0.25
Barley	102.00	+0.25
Maize	102.00	+0.25
Soyabean	102.00	+0.25

THE
TIMES
CITY
DIARY

Euro holiday for Sir Alastair

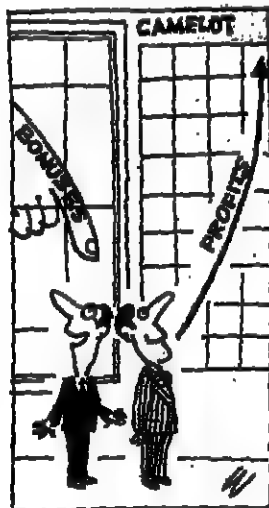
THE City can — for a little while, at least — relax. Sir Alastair Morton, chief executive of Eurotunnel, and scourge of the banks, is about to take an extended holiday. Even for him, the past 18 months has been a rough time. It has included handling Eurotunnel's latest rights issue, opening of the Channel Tunnel, stepping up services through it, and various tussles with the company's banks. Colleagues say he works flat out. He prefers to work straight through, not even taking long weekends. Now he is taking a six-week break starting June 21, in France and Switzerland. He warned, if anybody is thinking of taking advantage of his absence "he will be close enough to box people's ears" a spokesman said.

Stealthy Tiger

ALL'S fair in love, war, and competitions for helicopter contracts. While Lord Westminster was busy promoting his collaboration with Bell Helicopter of America to offer the Cobra/Venom in the back garden of the Imperial War Museum yesterday, an advertising truck nudged into a pair of parking bays beside the front gate. Its message: "Tiger: The Attack Helicopter from Britain's largest manufacturing exporter. British Aerospace."

Euro-Lang

WELL, at least Hugh Lang, chairman of Brammer, the Altrincham, Manchester, bearings distributor, welcomes Europe wide open arms. At yesterday's AGM he spoke in English, French, German and Spanish in deference to his continental European directors and employees.



"It could be us"

Nikko-bound

NO SOONER does Swiss Bank Corporation take over Warburgs, than Nikko Europe scoops Warburg's Exel-rated UK economist and bond analyst, Simon Briscoe. He had been with Warburgs for six years, and was editor of the bank's *Weekly Sterling Bond Market Review*. Briscoe, a former HM Treasury and European Commission man, will work alongside Stuart Thomson, Nikko's chief international economist.

Medal winners

THE Fine Art and Antiques Fair at London's Olympia opens tomorrow with some distinguished city commemoratives. The death of Nathan Rothschild, the 19th century financier and merchant, is remembered on a bronze medal of 1836 that Tim Millett of dealer A H Baldwin and Sons describes as "extremely fine and rare". It is offered at £285. A silver badge with the arms of the Cutlers Company on one side and the City of London on the reverse from 1834 is modestly priced at £85, while one of the 1831 medals issued by the Corporation of the City of London to commemorate the opening of London Bridge, is priced at a mere £55.

COLIN CAMPBELL

Camelot's winning formula lands jackpot for directors

Jon Ashworth reads a fortune in the National Lottery's crystal ball

From the moment the National Lottery exploded to life in a shower of fireworks one cold morning last November, Britain's biggest money-spinner looked unstoppable. Putters spent £50,000 on tickets in the first 12 minutes, astounded observers and providing a hint of what was to come. The full extent of the nation's appetite for lottery tickets was laid bare yesterday, when Camelot Group published its financial results for the year to March 31. With a symbolic tug of the jackpot lever, the pound coins came tumbling out — sales of nearly £1.2 billion in the first 20 weeks; £562 million paid in prizes; £317 million for good causes; more than 27 million winners.

The financial snapshot also confirmed the obvious: Camelot is making a tremendous amount of money. The consortium made a gross profit of £78 million in the period in question, leaving it with a pre-tax profit of £10.8 million, once operating costs had been stripped out. Playing with the numbers, this leaves Camelot with a healthy £500,000 a week before tax — somewhat short of the £1 million-a-week that critics had been hoping for, but a tidy sum nonetheless. Camelot has pocketed £6.3 million after tax for the 20-week period to put towards future costs.

The lower-than-expected profits bear out Camelot's claim that it undercut rival bidders, including Richard Branson, when submitting its National Lottery application. It has always said that net profits over the seven-year term of the licence would be in at least 1 per cent — and so it has proved. So slim are the margins that a 10 per cent rise in operating costs would wipe out its profits altogether.

But Camelot is not quite out of the woods. The five executive directors appear to be extremely well rewarded for their efforts. Indeed, Tim Holley, Camelot's chief executive, has pocketed £443,367 — a sum he insists is comparable with his former earnings as head of Racal's Data Communications Group. In addition to a basic salary of £280,000, Holley was paid a one-off bonus of £120,000 for fitting the launch date on time, and had £12,000 in pension contributions paid on his behalf. A further £11,367 was paid in other benefits. Holley's annual base salary is £240,000, but this year's figure is based on 10 months' earnings.

Holley is predictably exasperated to have become the latest target on the executive pay firing range. He points out that the level of executive remuneration was decided by an independent panel of non-executive directors and approved by Camelot's five shareholders — Racal Electronics, Cadbury Schweppes, De La Rue, GTECH, and ICL.

The level of remuneration has no bearing at all on the amount paid to good causes. The level of sales in the

WHO'LL WIN THE JACKPOT?



Ticket sales touched £1.2 billion in the first 20 weeks of the lottery

first 20 weeks was so far ahead of expectations — an extra £340 million or so — that good causes were left with an additional £90 million to share out. Sales were helped by the fact that 2,000 more terminals than planned were in action during the 20-week period.

But executive pay is an emotive topic, and Camelot's interesting bonus scheme will keep tongues wagging for a while. Holley and his fellow directors are in fact entitled to three bonuses. The first was a "hit or miss" affair that hinged on Camelot meeting its November 14 deadline. Camelot faced a penalty of £1 million a day for each day by which it missed its target, and the shareholder companies decided that a one-off "success fee" of 50 per cent of base salary would provide a suitable carrot. The five executive directors have pocketed a total of £358,000 between them for their troubles. Failure to meet the deadline, and they would have received nothing.

Further carrots are being dangled. To keep them going, Holley and his

team have another annual bonus to look forward to if this year's target returns are hit. This bonus, which will feature in next year's financial results, is capped at 50 per cent of salary. Finally, three and a half years into the licence term, comes the "cracker" — another one-off bonus of up to 140 per cent of the previous year's salary if targets are exceeded. This is designed to provide a longer term incentive for directors in the absence of a share option scheme, and it will no doubt spur them on. Based on this year's package, for instance, Holley would take home a basic salary of £240,000 plus an annual bonus of £120,000 plus the one-off long term bonus of £338,000 — all in the same breath. That would put him on £696,000 before pension and other benefits.

But that is for another day. For now, the Camelot directors can cite the higher than expected sum raised so far for good causes, and point to what

they were obliged to give up at their previous companies — three-year rolling contracts, index-linked pay and the like. Holley exercised his Racal share options before joining Camelot, but is reluctant to disclose the size of his windfall.

So much for the financial snapshot. Looking beyond the end of March, the latest trading figures show Camelot powering on at a daunting speed. The arrival of the Instant game on March 21 has boosted total sales to £2 billion, leaving Camelot on course to generate sales of £5 billion in the current financial year. It had expected to take two to three years to reach that level. Sales are averaging £100 million a week, broken down into 60 per cent for the televised on-line game, and 40 per cent for Instant. Camelot has given warning against reading too much into the early success of the Instant game, pointing to experience overseas, where sales tend to slide after the initial euphoria. Last week's Instant sales were down 10 per cent, for instance, but one cannot read too much into that. Overall sales continue to increase, but at a slower pace.

The number of National Lottery sales outlets has risen to 23,000. A further 5,000 on-line outlets will open this year, and the network should grow to 35,000 by the end of 1996. Retailers are typically selling between £1,000 and £10,000 in tickets a week. Many outlets are taking £4,000 in weekly sales, leaving them with £200 a week in commission, plus the prospect of extra trade from passing traffic. Britain's top-selling outlet at the moment is a kiosk at Liverpool Street station in London. It sells more than 10,000 tickets a week.

Camelot has written off pre-launch costs of £30 million, but argues that running costs are a heavy burden. Camelot spends about £1 million a week on advertising and marketing, and points to the expense of training and equipping new retailers. It costs about £6,000 to put one fully equipped retailer in business, and about £3,000 a year to keep them going.

Up to 30 million out of an eligible population of 44 million play the National Lottery each week. The game has produced £1 billion in prizes and paid out 58 "wins" worth £1 million or more, although these include syndicates. Calls for the jackpot to be capped are likely to fall on deaf ears, since experience overseas is clear: the higher the jackpot, the higher the sales.

It is too early to say whether the National Lottery will continue to defy expectations. Sales of £5 billion this year would produce more than £1.3 billion for good causes, but this is still some way short of the £9 billion or so forecast to be raised over the seven-year course of the licence. In any one year, as sales increase, the amount payable to good causes goes up, and the cut to Camelot goes down. This year, once sales hit £3.7 billion, good causes will receive 30.6 per cent of sales, and Camelot will be left with 1.65 per cent to cover costs and profit.

Camelot will continue to devise new game strategies, and plans to branch into merchandising, with a range of gifts, including pens, mugs, and clothing. One item is a digital Camelot watch that, when pressed, rolls out six numbers for eager punters.

Hiring extra skills for short-term jobs

Victoria McKee looks at the rise of the interim manager in British business

The inexorable rise of the interim manager is being heralded as one of the biggest business phenomena of the 1990s.

An interim manager was once used as a stopgap when the financial director had been caught with his hand in the till or the human resources manager took maternity leave. Now they are developing a very different profile in the new "lean and mean" companies that have "downsized", "delayed" and become accustomed to "outsourcing" services.

John Hird, managing director of Albermarle Interim Management and chairman of the Association of Temporary and Interim Executive Services, a trade association formed in 1989, says that more and more businesses are moving towards a core management team and hiring all the extra skills they need on a short-term basis.

"We've doubled our turnover in the last year from interim managers. They started out very much as an emergency service. Now, due to delayering, they have become a recognised human resource facility, whether it's a big company which wants managers to mastermind the closedown of a factory or a small company looking for specialist skills they couldn't afford on a full-time basis."

Jo Cutmore, managing director of Jamieson Scott, an executive search consultancy company, and founder of Prowess, a non-executive director database, says: "The redundant managers of the 1980s have become the interim managers of the 1990s, with companies pushing people out the front door and then sneaking them into the back on different terms and conditions."

Jobs which have historically been in-house jobs are now contract jobs, with the right person for each specific task — the right person to write the proposal, the right person to analyse it — hired for short periods of time, on contracts of three, six or nine months. Downsizing has left a huge skills gap.

Interim managers actually become part of the company for which they work, assuming a specific title and role, unlike the management consultant who remains aloof. Perhaps they will have a non-executive directorship or two for the bread-and-butter income. For employers, it means being able to hire the perfectly-shaped plugs for the round and square holes left by the rigorous pruning of the 1980s. "So that if a railway company wants a specialist on leaves on the track, they can hire one in just for the autumn," says Jo Cutmore. "Or if a small company wants the calibre of financial director they could possibly afford full time, they can have him just to help them change direction — a short, sharp blast of talent."

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Interim managers are being used to do dirty work such as closing sections of a company about which in-house managers might be more sentimental, to handle recruitment and marketing during specific drives, or to take over the reins in the lead up to a merger.

Companies such as British Telecom and Cable and Wireless have set up in-house banks of interim managers to export expertise to other organisations.

Directories of interim managers such as Executive Grapevine are now bulging with small companies devoted to this concept. But the big players are also becoming involved.

Chris Behan, director of Interim Management Services for NB Selection, is a poacher turned gamekeeper, having been — as an interim manager — with the Albermarle Group to help to establish its interim management division, and having been headhunted 18 months ago to set up NB Selection's selection service as a full-time director.

"The movement has gained so much momentum over the past year," he says. "I'd say it's doubled over the past two years. It's definitely the coming thing. More companies will be looking at the consequences of the EU Social Chapter on hiring full-time staff and will decide to go down the interim route."

But what will happen to corporate loyalty and corporate spirit? "Corporate loyalty? Hah!" says one headhunter. "These are the 1990s."

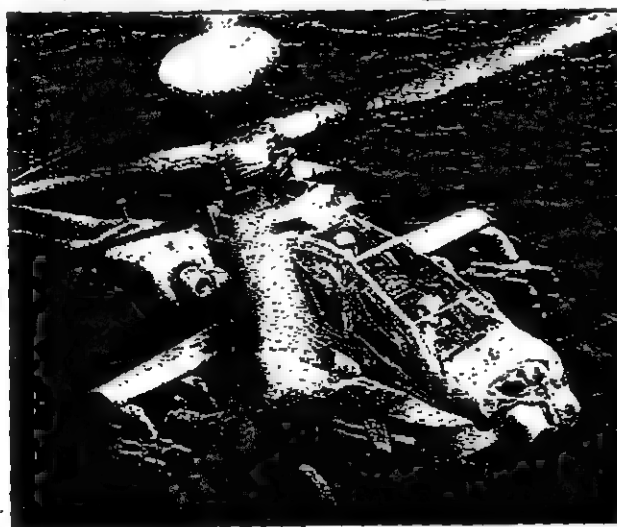
Rivals take on Whitehall, Ross Tieman reports

Battle of the helicopters hots up

The battle over the £2.6 billion contract to supply the Army with an attack helicopter has turned into a conflict of extraordinary intensity. Three of Britain's biggest defence groups are lobbying furiously in Whitehall, in Parliament, and even in newspaper advertisements. Lord Westminster, managing director of the General Electric Company, was yesterday photographed out of his office, in front of a helicopter (see page 25). It is hard to imagine more convincing evidence that something exceptional is at stake. Britain's attack helicopter contract comes at a turning point in the global concentration of the helicopter industry. The choice of supplier will help to position one of the contenders: British Aerospace (BAe), GEC or Westland, to become a force in the rationalisation process.

Since the Vietnam War, helicopter manufacture in the Western world has been dominated by the United States. American purchases were so large that four suppliers thrived: Sikorsky, McDonnell Douglas, Boeing and Bell. Britain's champion, Westland, survived by either buying American designs or collaborating with continental partners. It has designed and built three successful aircraft with Aerospatiale of France: the Lynx, Gazelle and Puma. It has also produced the EH101 and sub-marine and transport helicopter with Agusta of Italy.

With Aerospatiale and MBB of Germany now combined in Eurocopter, the Western world still has seven companies capable of building a helicopter from scratch. Too many. American military purchases are now set to fall fast.



The Ministry of Defence is thought to favour the Apache

Sikorsky, part of United Technologies, faces a serious order gap. Even Bell, the Textron subsidiary which has built as many as the rest combined, is looking to engineer an industry rationalisation. Four American contenders are likely to become three, or two.

Westland is now part of GKN. Westland executives believe the European industry will shrink to two, and ultimately one player. This is not a "Fortress Europe" philosophy. Rather, collaboration will deepen because that is the only way to win access to military markets, and simultaneously achieve scale economies and rationalisation of the industry.

Britain, and Westland, have proved either a fickle or a pragmatic partner, according to perspective. Westland was to have taken part in the Tiger helicopter, now being developed by Eurocopter. But when the Army said it wanted the American Apache, Westland

helicopter contest has dragged bargain-basement bids and innovative engineering proposals out of the contenders.

Apache's weaknesses: high price and heavy maintenance demands, have been addressed. Cobra's lack of agility has been tackled through the offer of a four-bladed rotor to replace the two-blade on current models. Ironically, Tiger, the newest and lightest, has set the standard to beat.

On present form, the MoD backs Apache for its firepower, but Roger Freeman, the Defence Procurement Minister, is keen to extend European collaboration. The Treasury is thought to be gunning for Venom, which has a lower up-front cost. But Tiger would open the Eurocopter door to UK participation. Which way will the Department of Trade and Industry, headed by Michael Heseltine, that veteran of helicopter battles, incline?

Industrial issues could end up as the make-weight in the finely balanced contest. In which case, ministers should ask each bidder what role they expect the UK to play in the rationalised world helicopter industry in ten or 20 years.

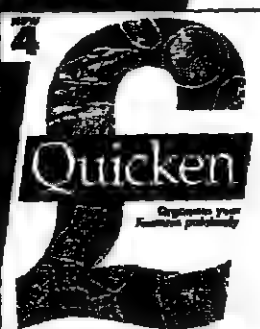
Propping up Westland has cost the taxpayer. For £2.6 billion, the MoD should now be able to buy Westland, alone or as assembler of one of its rival's machines, a place in a more robust, international consortium.

A decade ago, Mr Heseltine resigned from the Cabinet after his plan for European collaboration to save Westland was rejected. With John Major's Government trailing in the polls, Mr Heseltine will have no more need for dramatic gestures. This time, he will cast the deciding vote.

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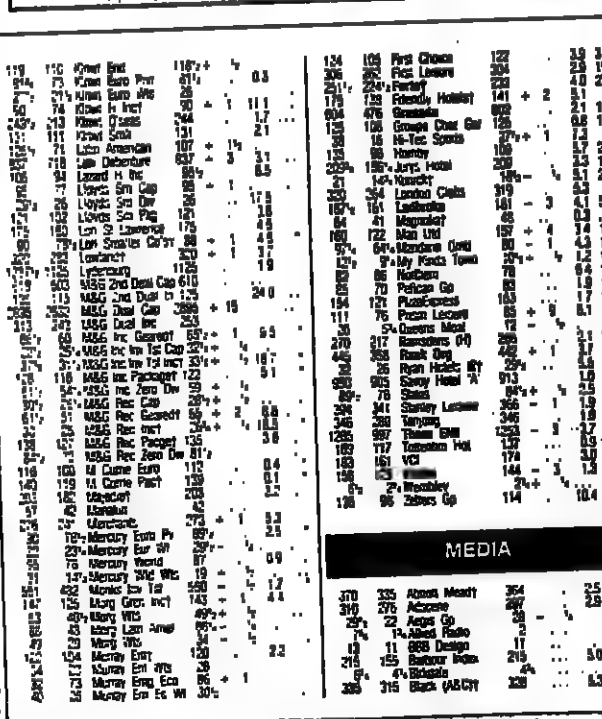
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192	188	Alcat Chemical	197	-	4	18	41	Chemical	283
193	189	Amcor Inc	197	-	4	18	41	Coats	283
194	190	Amcor Inc	197	-	4	18	41	Coats	283
195	191	Amcor Inc	197	-	4	18	41	Coats	283
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Busy times at Allied Colloids

By COLIN NARBROUGH

ALLIED COLLOIDS, the speciality chemicals group, forecast further growth after a high level of activity in the opening months of this year.

After recording a 9.6 per cent increase in pre-tax profit to £50.3 million in the year to April 1, the company declared a 2.05p final dividend, lifting the total to 2.60p from 2.36p, to be paid on August 25. Net profit was £4.8 million higher at £37.5 million.

Booming demand for paper gave the company its best growth performance, with the paper chemicals arm increasing sales 20 per cent to £14 million. Total sales on continuing operations were 8.9 per cent higher at £356 million, with growth in all geographical regions. There were strong performances in Europe and the Americas.

Allied said sales in the opening months of this year had been ahead of that achieved at the same stage last year and were set for further growth. The company said, however, that it faced rising prices for its main raw materials, especially in the current quarter, and slowing growth in some leading economies.

The profit margin was maintained at 14.1 per cent last year.

Equipment maker lifts dividend after profits surge

Powerscreen set to expand

By NEIL BENNETT

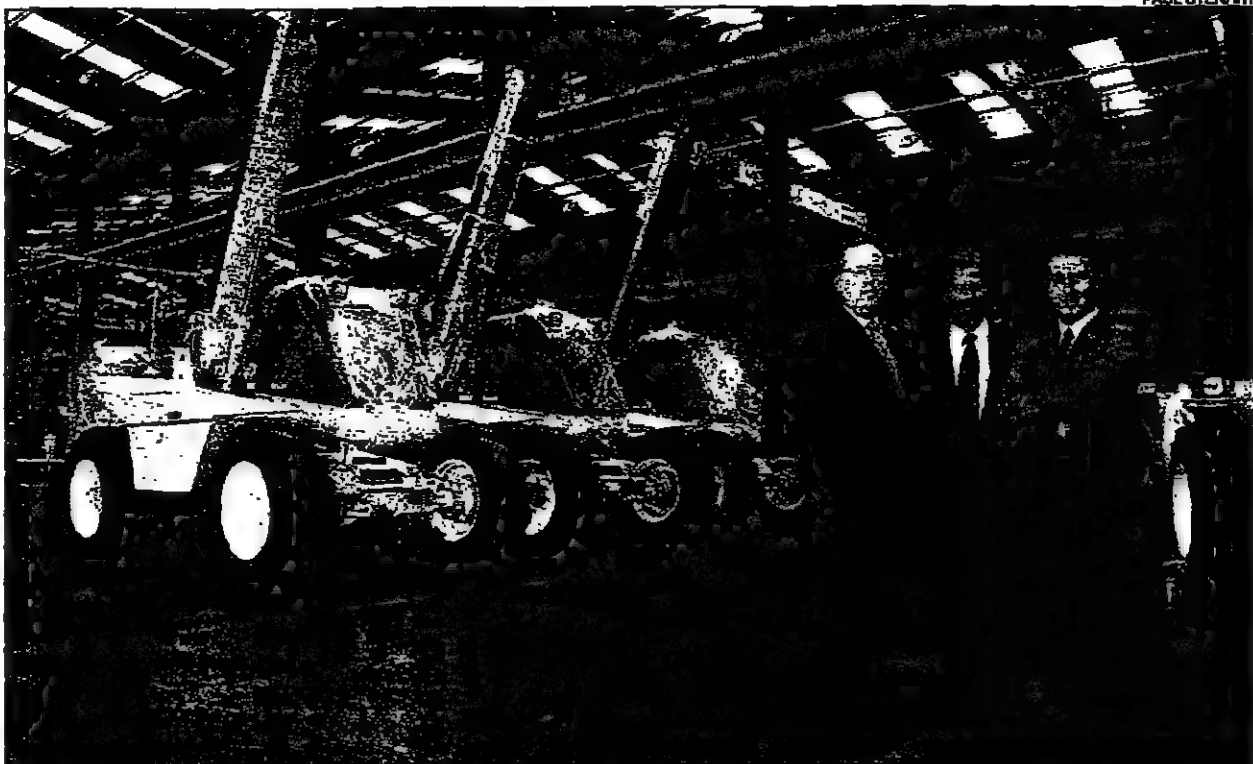
POWERSCREEN, the heavy industrial equipment manufacturer, is investing £5 million in new factory space in the coming year to cope with a surge in demand for its screening and materials handling machinery.

It is also considering building an assembly plant in Indonesia or Malaysia to service its growing Far Eastern business. The Asia-Pacific region accounts for 11 per cent of group sales and demand for its sand, gravel and demolition waste screens is rising strongly. Powerscreen is now looking at markets in South America.

Shay McKeown, chief executive, unveiled the plans as he announced an 18 per cent surge in pre-tax profits to £29 million, after a 62 per cent leap in turnover in the year to March 31.

The group improved its performance in spite of a negligible contribution from Benford, the dumper truck maker acquired last year. The group is increasing its dividend for the year by 11 per cent to 8.1p.

Benford made a £46,000 profit on sales of £25.2 million for the half year it contributed. Mr McKeown said radical



Shay McKeown, left, with Pat Dooley, sales and marketing director, centre, and Barry Cosgrove, finance director

action had been taken since the company was acquired to improve its profitability.

Two of the company's four manufacturing plants have been closed, it has ceased distribution of outside prod-

ucts, and its range of dumper trucks has been cut from 17 to four. Powerscreen is concentrating on developing Benford's compaction equipment arm.

In the coming year, Powerscreen will make the first sales from its new £4.4 million plant for telescopic handling equipment in Dungannon, Co Tyrone.

The group is also planning extensions at its other

Dungannon factory and at its plant in Omagh, Co Tyrone. Its container plant at Clones, Co Monaghan, will be extended as well. The investment will be funded from Powerscreen's cash reserves of £12.5 million.

Lord Young takes £300,000 pay cut

LORD YOUNG of Grafton, chairman of Cable and Wireless, has taken a pay cut of almost £300,000, it was revealed in the group's annual report yesterday. The former Cabinet minister's salary dropped because of a fall of £244 million in the company's pre-tax profits.

Lord Young took home £479,247 against £777,163 the year before, and explained the reasons for the cut. "The terms of our compensation scheme are rigorous. No growth, no bonus," he said in C&W's annual report. The news is in contrast to recent executive pay increases, including that given to Cedric Brown, British Gas chief executive, which caused protests at last week's AGM. C&W's profits fell from £1,088 million to £844 million on restructuring costs at Mercury and provisions for businesses being disposed of.

Northern Foods move

NORTHERN FOODS is taking control of Green Isle, the leading frozen food group in the Irish Republic, with a £100 million turnover, in which it has held a 36 per cent stake for five years, by lifting its shareholding to 79 per cent at a cost of £124.7 million. Options exist for Northern to buy the other 21 per cent. Green Isle has five factories producing pizzas, pastry products and fish lines in Goodfella's, Green Isle, Donegal Catch brands and for own-labels.

Alba celebrates VE-Day

HEAVY demand for a nostalgia wireless, released for the VE-Day anniversary market, helped Alba, the consumer electronics group, to lift profits 23 per cent to £8.6 million in the year to March 31. The company also registered record sales and profits at Hinnit, its domestic appliance subsidiary, as it captured market share and launched new products. The group is lifting its final dividend by 0.2p to 4.2p, to make 5.3p for the year, an increase of 6 per cent.

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LA CRÈME DE LA CRÈME

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Crème 95
Secretarial Supplement
Monday 12th June

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BRIGHT TEAM PLAYER

Great job for a bright young secretary who likes to be in the know. Three friendly Managers in this W1 Consultancy are desperately needing someone to come and put their lives in order. They want you to act as a lynch pin and organise their hectic schedules, liaise with their clients as well as giving them first class secretarial support. You will be outgoing, sociable and friendly and like to be busy and enjoy thinking on your feet. If you are well presented and have good solid typing with about 18 months' experience and want to work for a company that will help you progress your career then call Sarah Williams on 0171 225 1888

VICTORIA WALL ASSOCIATES

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"ONLY 6 MONTHS EXP"

We are looking for an exceptional College Leaver Secretary with a minimum of 6 months work experience using your keyboard and computer skills. You must be a well educated (A level or Graduate called), and bright person who can learn fast and will enjoy working in a dynamic environment. Based in fabulous international offices, you will use your strong communication and secretarial skills to organise a small team and liaise with clients. A knowledge of Italian would be useful, along with 60 wpm typing. Word for Windows and the desire to develop the role further. Please call us on 0171 225 1888.

VICTORIA WALL ASSOCIATES

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"FABULOUS 2ND JOBBER"

This is a great opportunity for a young and enthusiastic Secretary to join this well known firm of Management Consultants working for two very friendly and dynamic partners. The role involves a lot of liaison between partners and professionals, processing research and typing reports and correspondence. If you are a professional and well educated Secretary, with 60 wpm typing, Windows experience and the desire to work in a sociable yet hard working environment, then please call us on 0171 225 1888.

VICTORIA WALL ASSOCIATES

WA £18.5K + BANKING BENS

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This is a front line, high profile role where you will be expected to organise and prioritise your work and make decisions that have a direct impact on the business the Directors conduct. As Secretary to 3 senior Investment Bankers, your role will be varied and involved as you organise worldwide travel and client events, compose correspondence and coordinate diaries. A dynamic Secretary with plenty of energy, initiative and drive is vital, as is three years solid experience, skills of 65 wpm typing, Word for Windows, Excel and some graphics. This is an interesting and sometimes pressured role where your hard work and flexibility will be rewarded by an excellent benefits package including overtime, and the opportunity to develop your responsibilities with the full support of a progressive team. Please call Victoria on 0171 225 1888.

VICTORIA WALL ASSOCIATES

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Managing Director of a well established, busy, property and development company requires an experienced, well organised secretary. Salary c£19,000 depending on experience.

Please send CV, stating current salary, to:

Remus Construction, 10 Maynard Close, Kings Road, London SW6 2JH.

JUST ONE WEEK LEFT BEFORE

Crème 95

The first ever Crème '95 opens in one week's time. There will be a number of training and recruitment seminars throughout the show, with helpful advice on all your training and recruitment needs.

ROC £23,000+++ BASIC SALARY

SENIOR SECRETARY TRUE ONE TO ONE PRESTIGIOUS COMPANY

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Work for Equity partner in plush Mayfair office at major property company. Loads of admin, arranging meetings and social events. Assist with marketing and recruitment. Minimal auto, shorthand desirable. 55wpm.

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24 Days Holiday, 1995, PC, BUPA, 1995, Substantial Bonus, LPA, Share

Key Chief Executive of major international bank needs experienced PA accustomed to making own decisions and meeting deadlines. Must be well presented with initiative and shorthand. European language an advantage.

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Phone: 0171-499 8658 Fax: 0171-499 9002

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Help set up a new department with head of Repo Trading. New position needs well-organized, good organizer with excellent telephone manner and ability to act on own initiative. 55wpm, W4W + Excel. Dealing room experience preferred.

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Some people want a special job. If you are good and looking for something different in TV, Film, Arts, Music & Publishing - call us.

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Involved, interesting positions for prof, well spoken wpm with 50+ wpm typ. £14,000 - £16,000 p.a. Age 25-35.

Please call Marion or Wendy on 0171 248 4538.

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INTERNATIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

£18,000 - £20,000 pa Plus benefits

Our client is an American corporation with a renowned tradition for its commitment to the growth and development of its employees and for the quality of service to its customer. In the USA, currently the second largest of its kind within the leisure industry and now establishing a UK base in Maidstone, Kent.

Your interesting brief will be to help spearhead entry into the European market by providing a broad range of administrative and secretarial support such as preparing for meetings and trade fairs, co-ordinating flight and hotel reservations, preparing presentation and budgetary documents.

Absolute fluency in French, German and English is essential and, ideally, you will also offer secretarial and book-keeping experience in a small team environment. Company benefits include profit related pay and a pension scheme. International travel within Europe may be required.

Please contact Hilary Watts
12 High Street, West Wickham, Kent BR4 6NJ
Tel: 0181-776 0451 Fax: 0181-777 9829

PA TO CHIEF EXECUTIVE

£25,000 Rickmansworth

PCI is a top 20 UK Computer services company.

The Chief Executive requires a PA to assist him in all aspects of running the company.

The successful applicant will have a proven track record of working as a PA at senior level. You will have a high degree of organisational skills with the ability to work flexible hours under pressure and adapt to a changing environment. Excellent communication and complete secretarial skills including shorthand are essential.

Ideally you have a thorough knowledge of Word for Windows 6, PowerPoint and Excel.

Applicants should be confident, well presented with excellent organisational skills and the ability to manage more junior members of staff.

Please send your full CV to the Personnel Manager, PLC Group, Waterside House, 47 High Street, Rickmansworth, Herts. WD3 1ES. Tel: 01923 771111, Fax: 01923 775199

PCI GROUP

AMERICAN LAW FIRM EC4

Urgently require enthusiastic and hardworking secretary to join small but busy corporate team. You must be well educated, have 2 1/2 years experience working in a similar position, a minimum of 90/70 wpm shorthand/typing, and experience of MS Windows and Wordperfect 6.1 for Windows.

We are looking for a bright team player who, in return for an excellent salary and benefits, will pull out the stops to get the job done.

If you want plenty of overtime (paid) and want to work in a friendly office of 20 people, please send your CV, to the address below giving a daytime telephone number. Applications should arrive no later than Saturday 10th June 1995.

Ms. Sheryl Clarke, 1 Canal Court, 5 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7AA

PARTY INGREDIENTS CATERING SERVICES

PA/Secretary to Managing Director

Party Ingredients is a well established catering company looking after special events throughout London and the country.

We require a discreet, responsible & motivated person to work for our Managing Director and assist with all aspects of the running of this catering and event business. Some practical help to drive and live close to SW6. No shorthand, but WP experience and fast typing are required.

Starting salary: £18,000 p.a.

For further details telephone:

Lucinda Harding-Wells
0171 720 0904
Kilring Street, London SW8 5EP.

INTL HOTELS c£17,500

Does the world of hotels interest you? Would you wish involvement with an international hotel? In this demanding PA role, you're the vital link between your boss, the Partner of a leading property company, and major purchasers/sellers worldwide. Your profile: polite and resilient, with excellent 80/60 skills. Age 22 - 32.

PLEASE CALL 0171 373 7373

JIGSAW RECRUITMENT

ART PUBLISHERS "3 OF A KIND"

c £18,000 + Perks

City based Art and Music book publishers are recruiting 3 Sec/PAs to work for the Company Lawyer, the Editorial Director and the Sales Director respectively. The successful candidates will be well educated, have worked at a senior level and have excellent audio and administrative skills. Languages would be useful although not essential.

Telephone Opens (Rec Cons)
day 0171 486 7921
after 9pm 0181 954 9432
or fax your CV to 0171 486 2111.

£21,000 + Benefits

PA to Operations Director

Fast growing city-based Management Consultancy requires a senior PA to work for the Operations Director. Your main priority will be to provide a full PA service at a senior level; ensuring her day runs smoothly, handling a wide variety of correspondence, organising schedules, diary management, travel itineraries, co-ordinating meetings, liaising with clients, contacts and staff.

You will need to be a bright, confident and cheerful person with lots of initiative, self-motivation, good communication skills, 100 wpm shorthand, excellent typing skills plus an eye for layout.

In addition to the basic salary, there is a comprehensive benefits package including healthcare, pension, life assurance and 25 days annual leave.

Written applications should be sent to:
Mr. E. Maltby
Shirecourt Limited, 28-30 Workip St, London EC2A 2AR
(An equal opportunities employer)

Crème 95

Training companies, such as The Industrial Society and the Chartered Institute of Purchasing & Supply, who are running a series of seminars at the show, will have information on all the courses they offer. Other training organisations at the show, specialising in office, secretarial and personal development skills, include the LCCI Examinations Board, Mens Organisation and Sight and Sound.

Crème 95

Secretarial clubs including the Institute of Qualified Private Secretaries will have information on the support they can provide. A number of recruitment companies, such as Chatterbox, James, Multilingual Services, ROC Recruitment, Tate Appointments, Drake International and Working Girls will also be at the show with details on what their organisation can do for you.

Crème 95

The show is open from 9.30am-5.30pm from Wednesday 14th to Friday 18th June 1995. Entrance is free and the seminars are excellent value at £5 per session. Seminar sessions can be booked at the show (subject to availability). For further information, please phone 0171-571 6802. See you there!

LUNCH ON US!

Thursday 8th June, 11am-4pm
Great Eastern Hotel, Liverpool Street, EC2

Join us for lunch or afternoon tea at the Great Eastern Hotel & discover the career opportunities open to you with Office Angels. Our consultants will have an informal chat to you about your permanent or temporary career aspirations & how you can get a new & rewarding job with minimum fuss to you! So if you're a secretary, receptionist, administrator or clerk looking for the next big move - look no further than Office Angels at the Great Eastern Hotel on Thursday.

Here are just some of our current job opportunities.

PA to Chief Operating Officer	£24,000	City
PA to International Director	£20,000	City
Directors Secretary	£9.00-£9.50ph	City
AppleMac Secretary	£8.50-£9.00ph	City
Switchboard Operators	£8.00-£8.50ph	EC4

If you want to find out more about these specific positions, call JODIE for Temporary assignments & LORRAINE for Permanent positions on 0171 606 0011. Or come along on Thursday for some career advice & a great lunch!

Office Angels

ENTREPRENEURIAL GENIUS £20,000 + neg

Internationally renowned MD of Investment Business is looking for a seriously bright PA/Secretary. Your city/finance experience will ensure you can cope with juggling priorities, complicated diary management and dealing with well-known 'City' personalities. Excellent presentation, charm and flexibility will enable you to become an important member of a very high powered team. Skills: SR useful/60, Lmg useful. Age 20-40

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Summer in the sun...Waters in the snow? Knightsbridge Secretaries pay up to £10 per hour for TOP TEMPS so you can choose how to spend your leisure time. We also believe in providing the service you want - lots of bookings with interesting companies. Our clients expect the best. If you have excellent secretarial skills (SR useful/60 typing and two WP packages) and would like to meet some of the best Consultants in town, please call 0171-235-8477

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Top of the League!!

German £23,000 Pkge
Be a winner and take advantage of this golden opportunity to work for a top US Investment Bank in their European Division. We are currently looking for a first class secretary to work for four bankers organising their hectic workload and travel itineraries. If you have endless reserves of enthusiasm and would like to be a front runner then please call Gabrielle Cousins today on 0171-434 4512

Crone Corkill
Multilingual Recruitment

"Premier Cru"

£23,000 + Package
The Chief Executives of two leading international companies require top notch support in the form of two PA's with extensive experience at senior level. Both roles will enable you to maximise on your resources of initiative and first class organisational and communication skills. Fluent spoken and written French and minimum 5 years senior secretarial experience essential. For a taste of these first class opportunities please call Jennifer Ross on 0171 434 4512

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Recruitment

**Age 20-25
£16,000**
Time for a new challenge in your second job? Your bright and friendly personality is needed in this exciting, new position. The basic MBA recruitment department of a thriving, international consultancy will give you the opportunity to use your initiative, arrange complex travel, meetings and interview schedules worldwide. Ability to liaise with both senior executives and new recruits is essential. Quickly become part of this sociable and busy office with stunning views over Green Park. You will need good typing and knowledge of Word for Windows or Applix. Please call Fiona Mackay on 0171-434 4512.

Crone Corkill
Recruitment Consultants

PA in PR

£18,000
MD of successful small PR company based in the West End urgently requires a PA/Office Manager. From dealing with press releases to meeting production deadlines you will be completely involved in the day to day running of this busy office. Superb organisational skills and creativity are essential to help maintain the reputation for quality and client care. Age 25-35. A levels, fast typing and Microsoft Word for Windows. If you are immediately available please call Lizzy Hallett on 0171-434 4512

Crone Corkill
Recruitment Consultants

Chief Executive's PA

c.£21,000-Hampshire
Fast moving Chief Executive of a successful, international manufacturing company needs a proactive personal secretary to whom he can delegate essential support regarding good day-to-day running of his busy life. He travels extensively and needs someone to keep a finger on the pulse in his absence. A good knowledge of the business would be a definite plus to contribute to the continued success of the company. Sound Board level experience, confidence and immaculate presentation are essential for this involving front-line role. Large office near Gosport, with excellent company benefits. Age 30-45. Please call Elizabeth Wood on 0171-434 4512

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£23,000 + bonus
Stick, successful, prestigious City company seeks switched-on PA. They play to win - new ideas are coming on stream all the time! Your role is to assist their marketing-oriented Chairman and, to a lesser extent, their young MD. Brilliant, busy environment for someone with energy, enthusiasm, numeracy and business brain. Good skills (80/60) requested.

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£20 - £23,000 package
As a result of dynamic growth and European expansion, West End based US multi-national urgently seeks skilled Sec/PAs. Package includes generous overtime, bonus, benefits and superb facilities (eg in-house gym etc). Genuine career commitment needed, plus 3-5 years' progressive track record in a 'blue chip' environment. Language skills helpful.

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Would you be happy to work for a successful company and have an excellent career opportunity?

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88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 00, 01, 02, 03, 04, 05, 06, 07, 08, 09, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 00, 01, 02, 03, 04, 05, 06, 07, 08, 09, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 00, 01, 02, 03, 04, 05, 06, 07, 08, 09, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 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88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 00, 01, 02, 03, 04, 05, 06, 07, 08, 09, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 00, 01, 02, 03, 04, 05, 06, 07, 08, 09, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 00, 01, 02, 03, 04, 05, 06, 07, 08, 09, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 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Their designs for others are often criticised. **David Crawford** looks at what architects create when they want a home for themselves



Lewisham was the first planning authority in Britain to back the Segal system, which turns lightweight components into structural members. It treated timber and external panels of Glasal — into warm, architect-designed houses "sitting" on wooden legs on concrete pads. The results look like a modern version of traditional "black and white". The advantage of houses like Mr Broome's is that they are cheap to build and ideal for sites that conventional developers find uneconomic.



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As two reports highlight a shortage of commercial property around the M25, Christopher Warman reveals plans for a business and country park development

many of the typical features of the day, ornate ceilings, cornices, fenestration and Palladian columns being retained or recreated.

The mansion is set on a hill, overlooking meadow, woodland and an area containing a number of old buildings. These obsolete buildings will be swept away by the creation of a new country park.

The announcement of the business park development comes as two reports were issued yesterday by estate agents Knight Frank & Rutley showing that the area around the M25 is to undergo a new phase of commercial development. Activity in the M25 office market accelerated during the first quarter of 1995, and the shortage of new office space around much of its length is becoming acute, the reports say.

Today there is only 2,361,755 sq ft of new office property available in the region, says the agency. Corporate occupiers are, therefore, increasingly looking towards the second-hand market.

The Knight Frank & Rutley reports conclude that "as the supply of ready-to-occupy, new premises continues to fall in the months ahead, it will not be replaced by new developments coming to the



The refurbished Botleys Mansion, a Grade II* listed Palladian-style mansion, will provide office space in landscaped grounds.

market. This will exacerbate the supply shortages now emerging. In six months' time it will be difficult to find medium to large-sized, good-quality new office premises around many parts of the M25."

A number of local authorities, the agency says, are concerned that this inadequate supply will dampen inward investment which they

are keen to attract to create jobs. The slowdown in development since 1990 has produced a large stockpile of unimplemented schemes with planning permission around the M25 which developers are now actively considering as market prospects improve.

A crucial requirement for the next development cycle is the

involvement of investors, Knight Frank & Rudley emphasises. "While there are undoubtedly excellent opportunities for the banks and investors to fund new development on a selective basis, the investment community generally remains cautious." The agency adds that market conditions in a number of locations suggest that speculative

The reports suggest that caution is not inappropriate. "While funders may perhaps be considered to be being over-conservative at present, their caution should at least serve to dampen the worst excesses of high-risk development."

LEND Lease Corporation Ltd has announced agreement with two department stores for Bluewater, its £300 million regional shopping and leisure scheme on the M25 at Dartford, Kent. The John Lewis Partnership will take 300,000 sq ft on three floors, and the House of Fraser will occupy 130,000 sq ft on two floors. The Bluewater project, the largest of its kind in the UK, will create 3,000 full-time jobs and should be completed by summer 1998.

THE former Knightsbridge Crown Court Centre is to be sold by the Court Service, an executive agency of the Lord Chancellor's Department.

The property is to be offered with vacant possession, and the agent, Knight Frank & Rutley, says that possible uses include luxury apartments, serviced flats or an hotel.

WALL FARM, overlooking the Stour Estuary at Holbrook, Suffolk, is to be sold on behalf of the Directors of Greenwich Hospital. It was once a school for the sons of

Nick Harris of the agents Redmayne Arnold & Harris says the buildings could be converted to residential-leisure accommodation or offices subject to planning consent. Wall Farm is being sold on a 125-year lease with a guide price of £185,000.

1980.



■ OPERA 1

Can theatre director Declan Donnellan give ENO the lift its season needs with his new version of *Mahagonny*?



■ OPERA 2

The Megaron Mousikis in Greece misses a good opportunity with its new staging of Cherubini's *Medea*

THE TIMES
ARTS

■ OPERA 3

In Holland, Harry Kupfer arrives at an unexpectedly optimistic ending in his new *Meistersinger*



■ CONCERT

Top Kirov mezzo Olga Borodina joins the RPO for Berlioz's dramatic symphony, *Roméo et Juliette*

New path through the city

Anne McElvoy talks to the theatre director Declan Donnellan, whose production of the Brecht/Weill opera *Mahagonny* opens tomorrow

To put it politely, this has not been the best of seasons for English National Opera. The larkiness and pyrotechnical excesses of *Don Giovanni*, followed by an accident-prone, overwrought production of Schnitzler's *Life with an Idiot*, have left the Coliseum with only such things as a revival of last season's *Costi fan tutte* to bolster waning spirits.

They must be relieved, then, to have got hold of Declan Donnellan, the nearest thing to a bankable success hanging around in the London theatre at the moment. The affable Irishman who, together with his business partner and designer, Nick Ormerod, has captured the goodwill of audiences and critics for his Cheek by Jowl productions of Shakespeare, and classical continental dramatists, arrives from a rehearsal of Brecht/Weill's *The Rise and Fall of the City of Mahagonny* feeling "like a wrung-out teabag".

Revived by red wine, he is soon giggling that opera companies, despite their aura of being purveyors of high art, tend to be longer in the tooth and more down to earth than their theatre peers. "I got quite upset at first because as soon as we finished the morning session, the choir would start to walk off stage, a bit like the plumber when he's finished a job. I kept worrying that they didn't like me. Finally I realised that they just wanted their lunch."

Donnellan is an adventurous director — his all-male *As You Like It* sounded like a nightmare of pretension and trendiness but proved to be a delightful award-winner — and he is clearly well suited to ENO's aim of mixing classic productions with unusual staging. But Brecht is a difficult prospect these days. Outside the academic world, where he still reigns unchallenged in the German and Theatre Studies syllabuses, he is going through one of those awkward patches which afflict playwrights who have been too generously praised for too long.

The fall of the Berlin Wall marked a change in his critical fortunes. It provided a damning verdict on his (albeit half-hearted) support of the East German regime and its suppression of the June 1953 uprising. The most widely read book on Brecht to appear since 1989 is John Fuegi's biography, which paints a deeply unflattering picture of the playwright as a sexual, financial and professional parasite.

Donnellan, however, is confident of approaching *Mahagonny* — the story of a city devoted to, and ultimately destroyed by, the exclusive pursuit of its own happiness — on its merits. He staged it ten years ago at the Wexford festival and says he has always wanted to revisit it. "It's a bit like reading St Paul," he adds. "Some bits are terrible, but the best parts are sublime."



The director Declan Donnellan cheek-by-jowl with Kurt Weill and Bertolt Brecht: "People don't like being preached at in the theatre," he says

I love bringing out the spiritual side of Brecht, which I think is too often ignored in favour of the theory or the political posturing.

So, expect no thudding presentation of *Mahagonny* as Major's Britain or capitalism in decline. Weill disagreed with Brecht about how identifiable *Mahagonny* should be, and this production will stick to Weill's instructions in the 1930 notes: "To seek psychological or topical associations, it was for any society when love gives way entirely to rules," Donnellan says. "As a

former barrister, I have great respect for the law but I also fear it as an expression of our failure to live in Christian love. That paradox is at the heart of the opera."

He has fought shy of fashionable involvement with German theatres, despite having a solid reputation in Brecht's homeland. "I always want to giggle when I see well-paid actors in cosseted municipal theatres taking their alienation, theory, frightfully seriously and pointing at the bourgeois audience as the

source of capitalism's evils," he says. "I wouldn't dare try that on a British audience. People don't like being preached at in the theatre by an actor who is every bit as middle-class as they are."

Musically, *Mahagonny* should be difficult to get wrong, and it will be interesting to see what conductor Sian Edwards does with the key pieces, like the *Alabama* and *Crane Songs* and the swinging *You Make Your Bed, You Lie on It*.

For a theatre director who has specialised in exploiting verse and the power of the spoken word, the discipline of music and the influence of a conductor must surely feel constraining.

"I have had to learn to yield control," Donnellan says carefully. "Sian's very feisty and when we both get worked up about something, she waves the baton dangerously close to my eye."

At home in Petersburg he has been tackling some of the mammoths of the Russian operatic repertoire. Berlioz's *Roméo et Juliette* is a mammoth of the concert hall. The RPO may not have matched Russian lavishment, but it fielded two separate choruses, the Brighton Festival and London Voices, as well as allowing Gergiev to bring two top Kirov singers, Olga Borodina and Sergei Alexashkin, for the quite modest scales.

It is easy to hear why Borodina is Gergiev's favourite mezzo. Her tone has a rich serenity with no hint of the all too common Russian wobbles. She delivered the opening narration with not a stitch showing between the phrases. The regret was that once the Prologue was over Borodina had to sit impassively through the rest of the symphony.

Berlioz assigns a reverse fate to his bass, who takes no part in the action until some 80 minutes of music have passed. He is called on to sing Friar Laurence, who becomes a confidant of the composer's hands a conflation of reconstituted Shakespeare's Prince of Verona, Alexashkin was good enough in the first two roles but lacked command and stature when he came to call for peace and forgiveness with the choruses massed behind him. Here Berlioz at last becomes unashamedly operatic.

Gergiev shone in this grand finale, even if Alexashkin did not. Although the final chord was muffled, earlier he had steered the RPO adroitly through portentous tragedy and the fairy fligree of the Queen Mab scherzo. The overall feeling was of Gergiev trying to get the RPO to play a bit beyond its capabilities and not always succeeding. Donald Kaasch scintillated through the tenor recitative with the London Voices. The Brighton Festival Chorus found its best form, if not its best French, at the close.

BARRY MILLINGTON

CONCERT

Romeo à la russe

RPO/Gergiev Festival Hall

BERLIOZ reckoned one of the finest performances he conducted of his "dramatic symphony" *Roméo et Juliette* was in St Petersburg in April 1847. The Russians laid on the full works for him, including a massive chorus, and he liked that. Perhaps this old connection encouraged the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra to include the piece in its Maryinsky-Kirov series, but more likely it was the preference of the conductor, Valery Gergiev, for works on a massive scale.

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JOHN HIGGINS

EUROPEAN OPERA: Athens gets an Italian version of a German view of a French work; Amsterdam sees the dark side of Wagner

Lost in translation

Well-planned programmes built around a single figure from Greek mythology have become one of the most satisfying features of the busy life of the magnificent Megaron Mousikis, which in the four years since it opened has transformed musical life in Greece. Electra, Helen of Troy, Andromache — and this year *Medea*, with Euripides's play, concerts including substantial extracts from Mayr's *Medea in Corinto* and, of course, Cherubini's opera.

Rather, not Cherubini's opera. The carefully structured French music-drama with spoken dialogue, created in 1797 by a composer whom Beethoven greatly admired, was as challenging and ahead of its time as Rossini's *Ermione*, currently shattering audiences at Glyndebourne. It was especially popular in Germany, where dialogue was scarcely to be countenanced in serious opera, and in 1854 one Franz Lachner composed orchestral recitatives to replace it. It was in this form, in Italian translation, that the

Medea
Concert Hall,
Athens



Grace Bumbry: one of the last surviving divas

piece was customarily given until 20 years ago, since when performances at Buxton, Covent Garden and around the world have shown the original to be infinitely more exciting (Opera North will stage it next spring).

Lachner's plonking recitatives, in an idiom quite alien to Cherubini, not only lower the temperature each time they come thudding in, but destroy the piece's carefully contrived dramatic structure. Why should the Megaron choose it? Well, it is more "convenient" (not every soprano can deliver French dramatic verse) and 40 years ago it was one of Callas's great roles — and Callas is still a mega-powerful cultural icon in Greece. As a piece of operatic archaeology it was — or "interesting" to hear, just the once.

Not that Friday's performance made the best possible case for Lachnerised Cherubini. Carlo Felice Cillario's lackadaisical conducting and the scrappy playing of the State Orchestra did justice to neither composer. There was no production to speak of in Nikos Petropoulos's all-purpose classical set. The National Opera Chorus sang very well, but the world have shown the original to be infinitely more exciting (Opera North will stage it next spring).

Which in the case of Grace Bumbry was not insignificant. Whatever else she is, she is one of the last authentic "divas" surviving in captivity — a beautiful, commanding, magnetic stage presence. She has been a diva for 35 years now, and her mezzo range is as firm, creamy and expressive as ever. The added soprano notes have always sounded artificial to my ears, but they are certainly there, though produced not without effort. You cannot take your eyes off her when she is on stage.

The high tenor role of Jason is perhaps the most testing in today's terms, and Vasson Cole sang it with astonishing ease, succulent with tone, pliant of phrase. He is a star in America and Europe, and I wish he could be persuaded to sing here. Otherwise, the Megaron fulfilled its function of providing a home showcase for the best Greek singers. If only they had been directed and guided from the pit — and singing Cherubini — this could have been quite a show.

RODNEY MILNES

Comedy goes beyond a joke

Die *Meistersinger*
von Nürnberg
Holland Festival

conforms to the anti-Semitic stereotypes drawn on by Wagner and recognised by his audience: he is short-sighted, ungainly, sweats profusely, and displays neurasthenic symptoms (the fiddles nervously, his temper is explosive and he pops pills). An episode in Act I, where Walther's Trial Song is audibly "marked" by Beckmesser behind a screen, lays bare Wagner's anti-Semitic agenda with give-away

symbolism and literary puns. Kupfer picks up the references, having his Walther advance on the Markie, tear away the screen and almost assault him.

The scene sizzles with tension, but both here and elsewhere Kupfer is anxious to show that animosities are personal rather than racial: rivalries among the Masters boil over in a hilarious *mélée* following Walther's trial at the end of Act I, while in the riot proper (Act II) Beckmesser is not the only one to be brutalised — several Masters and apprentices emerge with cuts and bruises.

Duessing's declamation has neither the (inappropriately) finely-honed *Lieder* quality of a Hermann Prey or a Thomas Allen, nor the screeching asked for by Wagner. But he gives his tone a suitably abrasive edge, and in both visual and dramatic terms his impersonation is a tour-de-force.

Jan-Hendrik Rootering's Hans Sachs is not the unequivocally benevolent cobbler-poet of tradition, but a more complex study: he even has a sadistic streak, as when he slaps and punnels the injured Beckmesser in Act III. Rootering sings with perfectly modulated tone, but there are few nuances or emotional signposts in either of his two great monologues.

This Sachs clearly has an ancient grudge against Beckmesser. Early in the opera he twice refuses to shake his hand, but at the close they are movingly reconciled. As Walther demonstrates how the Prize Song should go, Beckmesser reappears and advances across the stage in amazement. His recognition that he has neither the creative talent nor the sex appeal of Walther is truly touching, and one almost weeps with him as he retires, broken and defeated, to the edge of the stage. Sachs's friendly gesture is thus all the more poignant, as is his own valedictory embrace of Eva at



Jan-Hendrik Rootering (Hans Sachs) and Dale Duesing (Beckmesser) in Harry Kupfer's new *Meistersinger*

TAKE CENTRE STAGE

LONDON

JUNE 10 DINNER, a show and cabaret are back on the menu. Theatre Club members are invited to take in a top musical — choose from *Oliver!*, *Sunset Boulevard*, *Les Misérables*, *Cats*, *Blood Brothers*, *For Mikado*, *Crazy For You*, *Miss Saigon* or *Copacabana* — before enjoying a two-course dinner and cabaret at the Centre Stage, a new restaurant in Covent Garden. Many theatre fans will already be familiar with the whereabouts of the Centre Stage: it's underneath the Adelphi, the restaurant named by a club member. The owner of the new restaurant is also the owner of the Adelphi — Radisson Edwardian Hotels, partner to the Society of West End Theatre.

THE TIMES
THEATRE CLUB

The cost of the special Theatre Club evening on June 16 is £49.50 per person. Members wishing to stay in London overnight can book accommodation from £45 per person, including breakfast, and take advantage of discounted rail fares. To book, telephone the Centre Stage on 0800 335888. Membership of the Theatre Club costs £12.50 a year. To join, ring 01206 791737. For general inquiries call 0171 357 9673.

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TONIGHT

Andrew Litton strikes up the band as the RPO plays a programme of American music at the Barbican

TONIGHT

The Hampton Court Palace Festival opens with a Shakespeare evening in aid of the Globe Theatre

THE TIMES ARTS

THEATRE 1

A 19th-century German drama turns a comedy about cuckoldry into a work of profound metaphor

THEATRE 2

Bardays New Stages, the annual festival for alternative theatre, kicks off in London at the Royal Court

THEATRE: Kate Bassett on two productions with lofty ambitions tripped up by basic failures

Gods unworthy of worship

Amphitryon
Gate, Wil

A man walks into a mirror. The 19th-century German dramatist Heinrich von Kleist takes a comedy of mistaken identities and cuckolds and pushes it into the realm of profound metaphorical meaning, if not tragic romance. The basic dramatic action was passed down from Plautus and picked up, on route, by Molière. Jupiter, disguised as Amphitryon, beds — and unexpectedly delights — the wife of the grand and too-distant general. The comic subplot involves Mercury, incognito as Amphitryon's manservant, surreally confronting Sosias with another self. In Kleist's play, driven home by the looking-glasses on both sides of David McVicar's staging, the confusion of gods and men becomes an intellectual, intriguing, shifting allegory for painful problems: not just the plain grief of real-life adultery, but more abstractly the anxiety of seeing yourself loved for an ideal that is not you. Alkmene, Amphitryon's wife, ends up traumatically realising — a step in psychological development — that she cannot separate the wicked, unwelcome beloved from the good.

Meanwhile, Sosias, albeit in lighter vein, moves from farcically snubbing his nose to his reflection to running up against a domineering, dismissive alter ego who stops him doing his work and makes him lose his grasp on his identity.

A sizeable amount of routine New Comedy remains, with lame jokes and half-hearted slapstick beatings. The play seems shallow stuff for too long.



Ellith Fraser as Alkmene and Jupiter, played by Simon Robson, make other-worldly love in *Amphitryon*

The translation adds little colour, throwing the occasional contemporary cuss into unkind, socially placeless dialogue, but it picks up when the characters' emotional pitch rises. Perhaps a specific Scots or Irish dialect would cope better with the required comic-poetic range. Some of the acting is rather staid. Ramon Tikaram's winged messenger

is a tad wooden, although he has authoritative mysteriousness and fine vain poise in his 18th-century livery. Mark Hadfield's Sosias is more perky. Simon Robson (Jupiter) exerts a warm, tender passion. He is intimate and intense when physically entwined with Alkmene, the mortal whom he holds dear, ultimately to her damage. However, he becomes oddly man-

nered when he moves away, voicing his ardour and his jealous anger in a strange slurring shout. Both Jove and Mercury have troublesome harcourts, the celestial looks falling over their faces. In the end, it falls to Ellith Fraser's effortlessly natural, ardent, wrenched Alkmene to drive Kleist's drama into life.

Images, but no picture of the naked truth

The piece is presented as a freak-cum-peek show where we are, supposedly, voyeurs. The concealing canvas of a low tent is endlessly lifted on invisible ropes. The cast, two young men and two young women, are exposed. They mostly confront us in their underwear, while at other times they are naked or they use scissors slowly to cut holes in an already-seen-through body-stocking. The meaning of the show,

however, is hardly transparent. First the foursome — mildly funny and aggressive — stomp around in mad outfits and the flashing lights of some sort of rave, a tribal rite? Woodstock in a sadomasochist drag club by the look of it. Then we are greeted by a lad, stripped to vest, Y-

fronts and boomer-boots, head shaved, being roller-painted white to the strains of that grand old hymn, *Jerusalem*. He is gagged with Union Jack bunting which has been pulled, with slow irony, out of the other man's bottom. The symbolic action is too often exoterically impenetrable. Yet it can be ambiguously suggestive. The skinhead youth might be a National Front thug or a soldier bound up with a perverted idea of

being white and British. But Greek, where the cast doubles as private lovers and prostitutes on display, is also giving us glimpses into so-called sexual perversions. The shaven-headed gagged young man could be getting his kicks or be suffering repression, unwillingly whitewashed for being gay. The deliberate slowness of the cast's movements can be absorbing, but the impact of several sequences is spoiled by unrelenting protraction. Although the show touches on damage and frustration, it rarely really disturbs. The visual image of the tent turned into a snowstorm of feathers, flying out of gashed pillows, is thrilling. If only it were part of a more coherent creation.

DANCE: Nadine Meisner sees West almost meet East

Bullet train from Belgium

like a kimono or the robes of a swaggering warrior. And one of the dancers, Jean-Antoine Bigot, suddenly bursts into Japanese — or mock-Japanese.

Most of the time, however, the three performers expressed themselves through gestures, props and sequences of dance, kinetic impulses

dislocating the body into odd, boneless calligraphies. Yoris van den Hout's stage is circumscribed on three sides by walls built from flattened wooden crates. The resulting

picture is arresting and beautiful, especially when light shines from the back through the cracks, evoking a luminous world outside.

Inside lives a seriously weird family: a man, a woman and a girl. The girl ceremoniously pours sand on to the floor, gets compressed into a crate and displays her attach-

ment to a dead goose. Other images of death emerge, and we feel that we have been here before, in Japanese Busho dance. The girl is impaled on a cane; the woman, limp and vacant, manipulated by the man in a corollary duet. Vyncke's theme, the programme says, is the play of power against the individual, but I would not have guessed it. The situations are too disparate; they don't add up. Which is a pity: she has invented interesting characters and allows a refreshing humour to glimmer through.

ONLY seconds into the Compagnie Karin Vyncke's *Could Be for the Turning World*, I thought I had stumbled into the wrong show. If this was supposed to be Belgium, then Belgium had changed more radically than I had realised.

As a country, Belgium may communicate grey anonymity, but its dance has a savage, gleaming distinctiveness. Here, though, was something Japanese. Kaat Devindt's soundtrack fills the air with percussion and deep Buddhist chanting. Overcoats are worn

like a kimono or the robes of a swaggering warrior. And one of the dancers, Jean-Antoine Bigot, suddenly bursts into Japanese — or mock-Japanese.

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TODAY'S EVENTS

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kira Anderson

ELSEWHERE
BATH: Arthur Miller's mystery drama *Broken Glass*, depicting his lifelong concern with personal responsibility, is now on national tour. Directed by David Thorne, with Henry Goodman and Margot Leicester, it is the central focus of the Bath Festival. Tickets: 7.50pm, until June 28.

BIRMINGHAM: The English Symphony Orchestra, together with Benjamin Luxon, Gordon Giltrap and Rod Argent, perform music on a radical theme in aid of the Forward Trust. Tickets: 7.50pm, until June 28.

MOLD: A week for Peter's housing, *Mold*, which is a play about a play. It is a play about a play, and it is a play about a play. It is a play about a play, and it is a play about a play. Tickets: 7.50pm, until June 28.

THE KILLING OF SISTER GEORGE: Mervyn Morris plays the Jewish soap opera in *The Killing of Sister George*, which is a play about a play. It is a play about a play, and it is a play about a play. It is a play about a play, and it is a play about a play. Tickets: 7.50pm, until June 28.

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POP 1

Her Sixties image may endure, but Dusty Springfield is more interested now in living in the Nineties.



POP 2

The New York sophisticate Sophie B. Hawkins brings her classic cover girl looks to London at last.

THE TIMES ARTS



POP 3

The soul inside the machine: Laurie Anderson takes her complex, multimedia show to the Festival Hall.



POETRY

Put poetry in music, on the stage, or on television. In fact, anywhere will do, says Benjamin Zephaniah.

With a new album in the offing, life's looking good at last for Dusty Springfield. Alan Jackson reports

Dusty's road back on track

In his provocative novel *Alma Cogan*, the writer Gordon Burn asked us to believe that the 1950s singing star of the title, an extravagantly begowned family favourite, did not actually die in 1966 but merely shrunk back into obscurity, a woman of a certain age in flight from her own iconography. Then, while fans raved over the 'debut' of her showbusiness career, preserving it as if in amber, she herself reclaimed an anonymous life in a small, semi-rural community. When ever confronted by her past image, the fictional Cogan felt that she was looking at another person, a virtual stranger.

"Dusty Springfield is part of that unique wave of British women singers — Cilla and Pet and Sandie and Marianne and Lulu — that swept the likes of Alma off the charts and into the realms of social history. Springfield is familiar with Burn's book, however, and even found within it a parallel to her own situation as an emigrant from California, now settled back in the leafy Home Counties.

"One rainy evening I came into the house by torchlight, having been out looking for my cat, and the TV was on. It was the Olivier Awards and there was an extract from the musical *Only the Lonely*. Someone was on screen as me, singing *I Close My Eyes And Count To Ten*. It took me a moment to work out who it was, meant to be, why the whole thing seemed so familiar.

"That old, eccentric image — the blonde beehive, the panda eyes, the portfolio of theatrical poses — is so ingrained within our national consciousness that it is hard for us to think of her as anything but the arch-diva of Sixties pop. Now 56 and in remission from breast cancer, Springfield downplays the importance of the past and prefers to live in the present. While pleased by the enduring appeal of her earlier work — the inclusion of 1969's *Son of a Preacher Man* on the soundtrack to *Pulp Fiction* brought her a first-ever platinum disc recently — the perspective offered by a

recording career spanning some 30 years makes her only too aware that talent alone does not sustain success.

"It can be crippling not to realise how dispensable you are," she says. "There will always be another you along in a week or two; someone whose sound or look is more in tune with what's happening. If you're bright enough, you understand that from the off, but few of us are. In America the experience is still more extreme. Suddenly, word goes out that you're a mover and a shaker and that it's smart to have you around: you're an acceptable table decoration.

‘There are days I’d like to retouch my entire life’

Fine if you know that's why you've been invited along. But I didn't get it, and oh, how quickly things can change. When you're as thin-skinned as me, it hurts to suddenly grasp the plot."

For all that, the company of good friends and a disinclination to live within an atmosphere of protracted speculation from the British press about her personal life kept Springfield in North America for most of the 1970s and 1980s. While her peers diversified into TV, presentation or acting, or exploited their own pasts for profit via autobiographies, she sought a lower-profile, campaigning for animal charities and only occasionally making records, all of them critically well-received but commercially under-achieving.

"I would have liked to act, but no one asked me," she says. "As for a book, well, I've had offers and have been tempted. If I could write like Margaret Atwood, I'd do one tomorrow. But just something along the lines of 'there was this time I was smashed but

still had to go on and do *Thank Your Lucky Stars*... No."

She has always been reluctant to believe that her singing is anything like as good as others know it to be: the legendary record producer Jerry Wexler, while praising her gifts, called her the most insecure performer he had ever worked with. By the late 1980s, this essential shyness had made it seem inevitable that she would abandon music altogether. But Neil Tennant and Chris Lowe of the Pet Shop Boys engineered Springfield's unexpected chart renaissance, first by inviting her to guest on their 1987 track *What Have I Done to Deserve This*, then, two years later, by producing both *Nothing Has Been Proved* — the hit theme tune to the film *Scandal* — and the bulk of an album, *Reputation*.

Despite being tempted back to Britain by the success of all three projects, she was unwilling to further exploit her potential appeal by collaborations with other pop names of today. Only last year, when Columbia suggested making an album of what radio programmers term "adult-contemporary" material, did she agree to venture back into a recording studio. The resulting album, *A Very Fine Love*, may be a Nashville production but makes no attempt to be authentically country. Rather, it covers a musical territory similar to that favoured by Bonnie Raitt or — on the milestone Dusty In Memphis project of the late 1960s — by Springfield herself. Best of all: it finds her unique voice still gloriously intact.

"It was just a question of finding songs I was comfortable with, songs appropriate to who I am at this point in my life," she says. "I could have done that whole rent-a-diva thing again, but what would be the point? There's no substance to it, and if I'm going to go out there before the public and promote a record, it might as well be one that's honest and sincere."

Radio reaction to a duet with Daryl Hall, *Wherever Would I Be*, available as a single, suggests that she re-



Having beaten cancer, Dusty Springfield gets on with remaking herself for the 1990s

mains a potent commercial force. But whatever the album's fate in Britain, the corporate hope is that it will reposition her in the US, a market that is more forgiving of its former pop star's growing up and growing older.

It was immediately after completing recording that cancer was diagnosed, and the launch of the project was put on hold for almost a year to allow her to recover from chemotherapy at the Royal Marsden Hospital. "I remember crying, thinking: 'But I haven't got time to be ill'. That

was Miss Springfield talking though. Then the me who was christened Mary O'Brien stepped in and said: 'Now, just hang on a minute...'. So although this illness wasn't what I would have chosen for myself, it has turned out to be a learning curve. It's a long time since being a star was the most important thing to me, but it's even less so now. I don't need to be adored, to hear that applause. If I never heard it again, I would still be fine."

The Springfield who sits in a London hotel suite saying this

to me seems a far cry from the woman I first met ten years ago, the one then anxiously hitting the comeback trail. From backcombed hair to satin-shoed toe, that *Dynasty*-era Dusty exuded neurosis, seemed frightened even of her own shadow. Today's woman wears a comfortable sweater and enjoys a joke. "I get very cross with the laughter lines, and there are days I'd like to retouch my entire life," she says. "But I'm not obsessive in the way I used to be. All of this is important to me, but it's no longer that important."

Shakespeare takes the rap

A new BBC series intends to entice children to great poetry through film, talk and song. Sarah Hall writes

Benjamin Zephaniah, the performance poet, has a confession to make. "I got put off poetry when I was at school," he says. "My teacher gave me a poem by Shelley and asked me to explain it. I couldn't, and I can remember saying: 'Poetry, I can't stand it.'"

Little has changed. Poetry, it seems, remains the most inaccessible of genres, and getting children to "stand" — let alone enjoy — it is a problem for many teachers. BBC2's new *Schools Poetry Season*, a three-part series which starts this Friday, aims to change this, demystifying poetry by placing it firmly in context.

Teachers said they wanted different readings of poems, and ways in which children could relate to them," says the series' producer, Kate Cheeseman. So music, drama and film are used to explore the poetry of war, love and ecology: three popular themes of GCSE English.

Showing the background to *The Poetry of War*, the first programme in the series, was easy, and highly effective. The bitterness of Wilfred Owen's *Dulce et Decorum Est*, for example, or the pathos of Wilfred Wilson Gibson's *Breakfast*, is brought strikingly into focus when accompanied by graphic First World War footage.

The *Poetry of Passion* posed more problems. Cheeseman says, because "there is no single story". Instead, the programme deals with the complexity of passion by adopting a chat show format within which to interview poets. The fictitious *Love Lines* — a cross somewhere between *Blind Date* and *Top of the Pops* — sees drag queen Lily Savage quizzing John Clare, Aphra Behn, Edna St Vincent Millay and William Shakespeare on the objects of their desires. Their responses — the poems — are packaged as soft-focus videos, or, in the case of "William" and "Edna", as searingly aggressive rock videos.

This approach works well when Shakespeare's head-banging isn't too distracting, but is there not a sense in which this is all rather patronising? Can the average 15-year-old really only cope

with poetry when it's disguised as pop music? No, Cheeseman says — although, as a means of expressing desire, rock is today's equivalent of the sonnet.

Gillian Clarke, who contributes to the programme on ecology, is more sceptical about such packaging: although she has not seen *The Poetry of Passion*, she is wary of "anything but the best. I think you must thrill people, not patronise them".

Zephaniah, however, is enthusiastic about such presen-



Zephaniah: hated poetry

tations. "I love it," he says, and stresses the need to "reach people who won't read poetry in books" by "putting poetry in music, theatre, on television, even in commercials".

But is it realistic to hope that the BBC's approach will inspire children to choose poetry over horror stories and teenage romances? Cheeseman is cautiously optimistic, saying that it should encourage some of them, but Clarke is more confident: "If it offers welcoming feelings about poets, it will," she says.

Once again, Zephaniah is the most positive, citing his own example as a man whose interest in rap or "toasting" led him back to the Romantics and Shakespeare. "I always say that poetry is like a tree with many branches: metaphorical, oral, protest, love. And once you're in the tree, you can climb from one branch to another."

● *Schools Poetry Season* starts on Friday (BBC2, 11.30am)

POP: One woman impossible to pigeon-hole; another who is happy to play cultural conscience

Tongues, tails and torch songs

"YOU'RE going to be talking to me all night," said a conversational Sophie B. Hawkins, near the beginning of her official London debut. "I wish," murmured one of the many men who had come to admire her looks as well as her sound.

Sophie Ballantine Hawkins has won several small battles in her fight for our undivided attention since emerging in 1992, without yet cracking the safe of album acceptance. The classic cover girl looks of this Manhattan sophisticate of pop had a few months open at the *Empire*, as have videos for her often sensually charged compositions, but the make-up of this crowd suggested she also had the savoir-vivre to be something of a role model for young women.

Sophie B. Hawkins
Empire, W12

Hawkins made an early reference to her previous attempt at a first British show, around the time of her debut album, *Tongues and Tails*, when she was rained off after the skies directed their contents through a hole in the roof of the Bloomsbury Theatre. She addresses an audience with confidence polished in a long career of supporting roles: Hawkins was percussionist in Bryan Ferry's band as long ago as the early 1980s. But the intensity, the costume changes, the artistic pretensions, the verbal barrage of her stagecraft suggests someone who was always



Sophie B. Hawkins: more film star than pop singer

fond of dressing up and putting on a show. Backed by a dependable four-piece band, she occasionally affected a hairband to rein in her blonde mane before dabbling in taken-

slowness for an hour or so of more obscure Bohemia. One theatrical device involved her reappearing in a white sheet with strategic torch, while for another song she lit a pipe, apparently in all seriousness. For a moment it seemed she might remind us about the Brighton Conference or the pound in your pocket.

Some reassured glances met the known quantities with which she finished the set, the recent ballad *As I Lay Me Down* and her voluptuous debut hit, *Damn I Wish I Was Your Lover*, then it was another cosmic change and don-the-shades for the encore of *California Here I Come*. Tinseltown seemed an appropriate destination.

PAUL SEXTON

I sing the body electrifying

Laurie Anderson
Festival Hall

IT IS rumoured that Laurie Anderson's contract with Warner Bros is, in a world entangled with red tape, something of a loose arrangement. She comes up with albums — the two most recent are *Bright Red* and *The Ugly One With the Jewels* — and they release them.

If this is true, it is something of an anomaly. Anderson is a multimedia artist who, through a quirk of fate, had a hit single, *O Superman*, in 1982, and henceforth became known as a musician. It is a convenient designation, even if it hides a more complex picture.

Her current one-woman (and dozens of technicians) tour, *The Nerve Bible*, concerns, like much of her work since the *United States* project that spawned *O Superman*, the interface between humans and technology. The bible in question is the human body, with a loose parallel drawn between electronic circuits and synapses. In the stories that she tells from her own bible, there

is a continual emphasis on memory and loss. "Remember me, remember me," is a phrase that recurs. Spoken in her typically hypnotic, seductive tone against a mournful, ethereal wash of electronic music, it engenders a feeling of overwhelming sadness. When a message reading "One world, one operating system" flashes across the three projection screens on stage, such senses become fine-tuned.

But fine-tuning has always been a hallmark of Anderson's work, and this is no different. Her live shows are masterpieces of sound integrated with movement and visuals. Technical expertise is always evident: Anderson's present array includes the standard video filters, keyboards, treated violin and a black bodysuit which, when

touched, triggers off various sounds. A rush of images created by Anderson and Chris Kordick floods past.

In such a finely controlled show, it comes as something of a surprise when Anderson tells the story of a near-death experience in Tibet. She tells how a man's voice, his stories, reached into her delirium and pulled her back. It is a touching personal moment from a woman who has made a career out of a certain fictive playfulness.

There are numerous currents in Anderson's work, a humanitarian element being foremost. But in her profound questioning there is something altogether greater. She has been referred to as the soul inside the machine. If so, she is also a much-needed cultural conscience. It is a delicious irony that she is able to be so from within one of the world's most powerful corporations.

LOUISE GRAY



Laurie Anderson: artist who found fame through pop

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Opening Times: Wednesday 14th June - Friday 16th June - 9.30am - 5.30pm

Texan-born jockey waits on weather for Derby mount

Asmussen in line for Presenting

By JULIAN MUSCAT

RIDING arrangements for the Vodafone Derby were completed yesterday when Cash Asmussen was nominated for the mount on Presenting at Epsom on Saturday. Before that, however, Asmussen, the Texan-born jockey based in Paris, will have to contend with that most British of phenomena: the weather.

Unless the rains intervene, Presenting will be part of the expected 16-strong field for the Blue Riband. John Gosden, who trains the colt, is to walk the course this afternoon before making a final decision at declaration time tomorrow morning. "The ground at Epsom should be perfect if it stays dry," Gosden said yesterday.

A long-striding horse, Presenting cannot act when the ground is loose on the surface.

RICHARD E. HARRIS

Nap: LUCKY SOPH (9.00 Beverley)

Next best: Royal Ceilidh (7.30 Beverley)

As much was clear in the Dante Stakes at York last month, when the combination of rain on a well-watered race track rendered the ground unsuitable for the colt.

As yesterday, the going at Epsom would compromise Presenting's chance, but the fact that the downward drains quickly is a source of encouragement. Otherwise, the 48-hour Derby declaration process serves to complicate matters for Gosden.

Asmussen, for his part, will recognise the merit of the Dante form. The winner, Classic Cliche, ran an excellent fourth in the Prix du Jockey-Club on Sunday. And the Dante runner-up, Amus McRabbits, was inched out by the Gosden-trained Torminal in the group one Prix Jean Prat on the same afternoon.

It was also evident that Lanfranco Detoni, who rode



Court Of Honour, nearside, narrowly beaten by Luso at Chester, will represent Robert Sangster in the Derby

Presenting into third place at York, was far from hard on his mount in the closing stages. Detoni has committed himself to Tazmure for Saturday's race but Gosden agrees there may be little between them on the day. In Tazmure's favour is that he acts on any ground.

Asmussen's best placing in the Derby came in 1990, when he rode Blue Stag to finish second behind Quest For Fame. The jockey, who finished thirteenth aboard Weigh Anchor last year, has the ride on Tickenan in the Coronation Cup, 75 minutes before the premier classic.

Like Presenting, Tickenan is owned by George Straw-

bridge, who was on hand to watch Asmussen put the Breeders' Cup Turf winner through his paces at Chantilly on Monday. Selkirk and Silver, fling have carried Strawbridge's silks with distinction in this country, although the owner, who resides in the United States, has had few runners in the Derby.

Robert Sangster, by contrast, is perennially represented, this time by the Derby Italian runner-up, Court Of Honour. The mount of Brent Thomson, Court Of Honour was united with his Australian jockey, Peter Chapple-Hyam's Mantion complex yesterday.

The son of Law Society covered 6½ furlongs with Spectrum and Painter's Row, after which Thomson said: "Court Of Honour will give me a good ride. This is my second ride in the race after I rode Pencader into sixth place last year. This fellow has a better chance. He has already been placed in a classic."

This marked the return to the gallops of Painter's Row, once considered ahead of Spectrum by Chapple-Hyam as the stable's principal Derby hope. He aggravated a splint wound severe in the 2,000 Guineas, and is now on target for Royal Ascot, where he might cross swords with Pre-

senting if the latter is forced out of Derby contention. Humbel, the hope of Ireland, departs Dermot Weld's stable today for the journey to Epsom. A son of Theatrical, Humbel is to canter on the track tomorrow morning in the hands of his big-race rider, Mick Kinane, who won the Derby two years ago aboard Commander In Chief.

"We expect he will stay the trip and I think he will have no problems with the track," Weld said of Michael Smith's unbeaten colt yesterday. "I am expecting him to run a good race." Ladbrokes duty took head, reducing Humbel's odds to 25-1 from 40-1.

BEVERLEY

THUNDERER
2.30 Sea-Air. 7.00 Green Land. 7.30 Red Stream.
8.00 Self Expression. 8.30 Shining Example. 9.00
Lucy Soph.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating:
9.00 LUCKY SOPH.
Our Newmarket Correspondent:
9.00 MASAAFAAT (nap).

GOING: GOOD
DRAW: 5F, HIGH NUMBERS BEST

6.30 PASTURE MASTERS HANDICAP

(33.51: 7f 100yds) (11 runners)

(1) 0-40 BODDY'S FRIEND 42 (P) 5 W Williams 5-9-2 J Nap 07
(2) 0-35 BODDY'S FRIEND 42 (P) 5 W Williams 5-9-2 J Nap 07
(3) 0-35 BODDY'S FRIEND 42 (P) 5 W Williams 5-9-2 J Nap 07
(4) 0-35 BODDY'S FRIEND 42 (P) 5 W Williams 5-9-2 J Nap 07
(5) 0-35 BODDY'S FRIEND 42 (P) 5 W Williams 5-9-2 J Nap 07
(6) 0-35 BODDY'S FRIEND 42 (P) 5 W Williams 5-9-2 J Nap 07
(7) 0-35 BODDY'S FRIEND 42 (P) 5 W Williams 5-9-2 J Nap 07
(8) 0-35 BODDY'S FRIEND 42 (P) 5 W Williams 5-9-2 J Nap 07
(9) 0-35 BODDY'S FRIEND 42 (P) 5 W Williams 5-9-2 J Nap 07
(10) 0-35 BODDY'S FRIEND 42 (P) 5 W Williams 5-9-2 J Nap 07
(11) 0-35 BODDY'S FRIEND 42 (P) 5 W Williams 5-9-2 J Nap 07

7.00 WOODMANSEY HANDICAP

(33.136: 1m 3f 210yds) (15)

(1) 0-40 BODDY'S FRIEND 42 (P) 5 W Williams 5-9-2 J Nap 07
(2) 0-35 BODDY'S FRIEND 42 (P) 5 W Williams 5-9-2 J Nap 07
(3) 0-35 BODDY'S FRIEND 42 (P) 5 W Williams 5-9-2 J Nap 07
(4) 0-35 BODDY'S FRIEND 42 (P) 5 W Williams 5-9-2 J Nap 07
(5) 0-35 BODDY'S FRIEND 42 (P) 5 W Williams 5-9-2 J Nap 07
(6) 0-35 BODDY'S FRIEND 42 (P) 5 W Williams 5-9-2 J Nap 07
(7) 0-35 BODDY'S FRIEND 42 (P) 5 W Williams 5-9-2 J Nap 07
(8) 0-35 BODDY'S FRIEND 42 (P) 5 W Williams 5-9-2 J Nap 07
(9) 0-35 BODDY'S FRIEND 42 (P) 5 W Williams 5-9-2 J Nap 07
(10) 0-35 BODDY'S FRIEND 42 (P) 5 W Williams 5-9-2 J Nap 07
(11) 0-35 BODDY'S FRIEND 42 (P) 5 W Williams 5-9-2 J Nap 07
(12) 0-35 BODDY'S FRIEND 42 (P) 5 W Williams 5-9-2 J Nap 07
(13) 0-35 BODDY'S FRIEND 42 (P) 5 W Williams 5-9-2 J Nap 07
(14) 0-35 BODDY'S FRIEND 42 (P) 5 W Williams 5-9-2 J Nap 07
(15) 0-35 BODDY'S FRIEND 42 (P) 5 W Williams 5-9-2 J Nap 07

7.30 HILARY NEEDLER TROPHY CONDITIONS

STAKES (2-Y-O fillies; 59.04: 5f) (6)

(1) 0-40 BODDY'S FRIEND 42 (P) 5 W Williams 5-9-2 J Nap 07
(2) 0-35 BODDY'S FRIEND 42 (P) 5 W Williams 5-9-2 J Nap 07
(3) 0-35 BODDY'S FRIEND 42 (P) 5 W Williams 5-9-2 J Nap 07
(4) 0-35 BODDY'S FRIEND 42 (P) 5 W Williams 5-9-2 J Nap 07
(5) 0-35 BODDY'S FRIEND 42 (P) 5 W Williams 5-9-2 J Nap 07
(6) 0-35 BODDY'S FRIEND 42 (P) 5 W Williams 5-9-2 J Nap 07

8.00 DERBY WEEK HANDICAP

(33.789: 1m 100yds) (7)

(1) 0-40 BODDY'S FRIEND 42 (P) 5 W Williams 5-9-2 J Nap 07
(2) 0-35 BODDY'S FRIEND 42 (P) 5 W Williams 5-9-2 J Nap 07
(3) 0-35 BODDY'S FRIEND 42 (P) 5 W Williams 5-9-2 J Nap 07
(4) 0-35 BODDY'S FRIEND 42 (P) 5 W Williams 5-9-2 J Nap 07
(5) 0-35 BODDY'S FRIEND 42 (P) 5 W Williams 5-9-2 J Nap 07
(6) 0-35 BODDY'S FRIEND 42 (P) 5 W Williams 5-9-2 J Nap 07
(7) 0-35 BODDY'S FRIEND 42 (P) 5 W Williams 5-9-2 J Nap 07

8.30 COTTINGHAM HATING RELATED MAIDEN

STAKES (3-Y-O; 53.072: 1m 100yds) (6)

(1) 0-40 BODDY'S FRIEND 42 (P) 5 W Williams 5-9-2 J Nap 07
(2) 0-35 BODDY'S FRIEND 42 (P) 5 W Williams 5-9-2 J Nap 07
(3) 0-35 BODDY'S FRIEND 42 (P) 5 W Williams 5-9-2 J Nap 07
(4) 0-35 BODDY'S FRIEND 42 (P) 5 W Williams 5-9-2 J Nap 07
(5) 0-35 BODDY'S FRIEND 42 (P) 5 W Williams 5-9-2 J Nap 07
(6) 0-35 BODDY'S FRIEND 42 (P) 5 W Williams 5-9-2 J Nap 07

9.00 WELTON MAIDEN STAKES

(33.789: 1m 100yds) (13)

(1) 0-40 BODDY'S FRIEND 42 (P) 5 W Williams 5-9-2 J Nap 07
(2) 0-35 BODDY'S FRIEND 42 (P) 5 W Williams 5-9-2 J Nap 07
(3) 0-35 BODDY'S FRIEND 42 (P) 5 W Williams 5-9-2 J Nap 07
(4) 0-35 BODDY'S FRIEND 42 (P) 5 W Williams 5-9-2 J Nap 07
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(11) 0-35 BODDY'S FRIEND 42 (P) 5 W Williams 5-9-2 J Nap 07
(12) 0-35 BODDY'S FRIEND 42 (P) 5 W Williams 5-9-2 J Nap 07
(13) 0-35 BODDY'S FRIEND 42 (P) 5 W Williams 5-9-2 J Nap 07

COURSE SPECIALISTS

THUNDERER: 1.00m, 1.50m, 2.00m, 2.50m, 3.00m, 3.50m, 4.00m, 4.50m, 5.00m, 5.50m, 6.00m, 6.50m, 7.00m, 7.50m, 8.00m, 8.50m, 9.00m, 9.50m, 10.00m, 10.50m, 11.00m, 11.50m, 12.00m, 12.50m, 13.00m, 13.50m, 14.00m, 14.50m, 15.00m, 15.50m, 16.00m, 16.50m, 17.00m, 17.50m, 18.00m, 18.50m, 19.00m, 19.50m, 20.00m, 20.50m, 21.00m, 21.50m, 22.00m, 22.50m, 23.00m, 23.50m, 24.00m, 24.50m, 25.00m, 25.50m, 26.00m, 26.50m, 27.00m, 27.50m, 28.00m, 28.50m, 29.00m, 29.50m, 30.00m, 30.50m, 31.00m, 31.50m, 32.00m, 32.50m, 33.00m, 33.50m, 34.00m, 34.50m, 35.00m, 35.50m, 36.00m, 36.50m, 37.00m, 37.50m, 38.00m, 38.50m, 39.00m, 39.50m, 40.00m, 40.50m, 41.00m, 41.50m, 42.00m, 42.50m, 43.00m, 43.50m, 44.00m, 44.50m, 45.00m, 45.50m, 46.00m, 46.50m, 47.00m, 47.50m, 48.00m, 48.50m, 49.00m, 49.50m, 50.00m, 50.50m, 51.00m, 51.50m, 52.00m, 52.50m, 53.00m, 53.50m, 54.00m, 54.50m, 55.00m, 55.50m, 56.00m, 56.50m, 57.00m, 57.50m, 58.00m, 58.50m, 59.00m, 59.50m, 60.00m, 60.50m, 61.00m, 61.50m, 62.00m, 62.50m, 63.00m, 63.50m, 64.00m, 64.50m, 65.00m, 65.50m, 66.00m, 66.50m, 67.00m, 67.50m, 68.00m, 68.50m, 69.00m, 69.50m, 70.00m, 70.50m, 71.00m, 71.50m, 72.00m, 72.50m, 73.00m, 73.50m, 74.00m, 74.50m, 75.00m, 75.50m, 76.00m, 76.50m, 77.00m, 77.50m, 78.00m, 78.50m, 79.00m, 79.50m, 80.00m, 80.50m, 81.00m, 81.50m, 82.00m, 82.50m, 83.00m, 83.50m, 84.00m, 84.50m, 85.00m, 85.50m, 86.00m, 86.50m, 87.00m, 87.50m, 88.00m, 88.50m, 89.00m, 89.50m, 90.00m, 90.50m, 91.00m, 91.50m, 92.00m, 92.50m, 93.00m, 93.50m, 94.00m, 94.50m, 95.00m, 95.50m, 96.00m, 96.50m, 97.00m, 97.50m, 98.00m, 98.50m, 99.00m, 99.50m, 100.00m, 100.50m, 101.00m, 101.50m, 102.00m, 102.50m, 103.00m, 103.50m, 104.00m, 104.50m, 105.00m, 105.50m, 106.00m, 106.50m, 107.00m, 107.50m, 108.00m, 108.50m, 109.00m, 109.50m, 110.00m, 110.50m, 111.00m, 111.50m, 112.00m, 112.50m, 113.00m, 113.50m, 114.00m, 114.50m, 115.00m, 115.50m, 116.00m, 116.50m, 117.00m, 117.50m, 118.00m, 118.50m, 119.00m, 119.50m, 120.00m, 120.50m, 121.00m, 121.50m, 122.00m, 122.50m, 123.00m, 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Sorry, but as soap opera it just won't wash

Amid all last week's *Castles*-inspired controversy about whether soap operas require poverty and misfortune as their basis, I found that I kept yelling "Dynasty" and "Dallas". But at that point I had not actually watched *Castles* (BBC1), and did not know how absurd this comparison would be. As *Castles* is so *Dallas*, on a number of counts. There's nobody to hate, nobody to like, nobody to shoot, and most important of all, there are no clothes or haircuts worth looking up from the trolleys. The series may improve. As yet, however, *Castles* is *Waggoner's Walk* without the rollercoaster twist.

Imagine the potential. Tony Doyle leaves his wife (Anna Cropper) on her sixtieth birthday. She accuses him of having an affair, just as the family bursts in, unexpectedly, with present-wounded by his wife's broadcast-

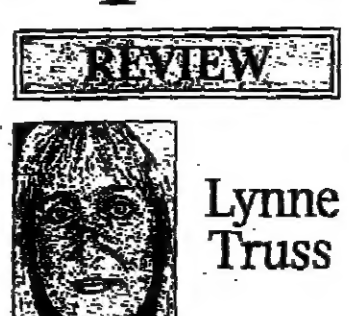
ing of his infidelity, he storms off to his mistress and vows never to return. Gosh, it sounds so arresting with the benefit of exclamation marks! All these events certainly took place, but *Castles*, on the other hand, because the trouble is, *Castles* are made deliberately boring. Why? When Tony Doyle arrived at the house of his mistress, she could have been a coarse, selfish person in a stained negligee, who spat slugs of tequila at the ceiling. But instead she was a hospital nurse, who buttoned up her uniform and said she'd see him in the morning.

In fact, *Castles* is so profoundly uninteresting that you begin to suspect it's not television at all, but an unattractive exercise in social control. Perhaps it has been sponsored by BT, and is punctuated by subliminal flashes, ie, "Phone Your Mum" and "Fancy a Pizza". It needs panache, it needs life and

passion, it needs Cindy Beale from *Sanderson*, it desperately needs a more imaginative wardrobe department. Heavens above its only daring moment came in last Wednesday's first episode when, in a frantic effort to introduce 103 characters in half an hour, the camera focused on an unpainted wall decorated with "Anita (heir) Stephen", and then panned down to the floor where a couple giggled among the paint brushes. Were these people Anita and Stephen, or was the Brechtian message a witty bluff? Nope, they were Anita and Stephen. The daring moment was over.

When it comes to subliminal appeals, last night's *Network First* (ITV) was less subtle than BT. Here was a heart-warming story about a cheerful seven-year-old deformed at birth by fall-out, and brought to Eng-

land to be fostered and fitted with artificial limbs. But what Tim Pigott-Smith's commentary kept mentioning was the forgotten suffering of the other children in the nightmare penumbra of Chernobyl, "as if the world had turned its back". While Igor bonded with his foster mother, and she hymned his sweet nature with tears in her eyes, we were reminded regularly of the other children, "with nobody,



Lynne Truss

nothing", who remain in Minsk, dying of thyroid complaints while their parents weep.

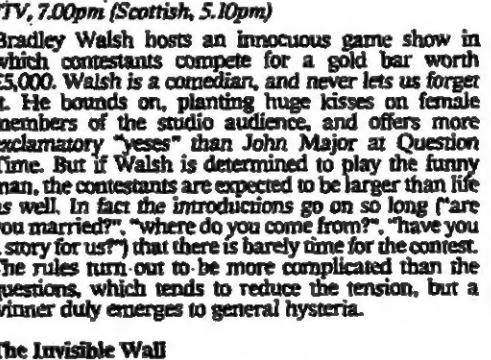
Igor was a gift, an excellent child. His face is perfect, his brain sharp, within months of arrival in England he was speaking well, and stating his ambition to be a fireman. Having only one arm, he knew he couldn't drive the fire engine, but he would still be a fireman, he'd sit in the back. At Roehampton, he reluctantly learnt to walk on his prosthetic limbs, and to operate a prosthetic arm, but his foster mother made the interesting point that when he ran around unencumbered by these contraptions, people made no comment, whereas strapped into his trolleys, people always said "Poor little boy".

It was odd to see England, through Igor's eyes, as an unpolluted paradise, but such things are rare. The hushing-up of Chernobyl is a disgrace: two million

- BBC1**
- 6.00 Business Breakfast (24755)
 - 7.00 BBC Breakfast News (30336571)
 - 9.05 *Big Day Out*. A journey on the West Highland railway between Fort William and Mallaig (1) (30336571)
 - 9.30 *Hot Fish*. Turbo and salmon (30336571)
 - 10.00 *News* (24755). Regional news and weather (30336571). The first of the day's visits to Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge (30336571)
 - 10.30 *Good Morning Summer*. Weekly magazine (30336571). Includes news, regional news and weather at 11.00 and 12.00 (2132649)
 - 12.25 *Going for Gold* with Henry Kelly (30336571)
 - 1.00 *News* (24755). Regional news and weather (30336571)
 - 1.30 *Neighbours*. (30336571)
 - 1.55 *Harvard's Way* (1). (30336571)
 - 2.45 *Bread* (1) (30336571)
 - 3.15 *Gardens of the World* (1) (30336571)
 - 3.40 *Cartoon* (30336571)
 - 3.45 *The Animals of Farming* (1) (30336571)
 - 4.10 *The Independent* (4111335) 4.35 *Glad Rag* (30336571)
 - 5.00 *Newsround*. (30336571)
 - 5.10 *Blue Peter*. (30336571)
 - 5.35 *Highlights* (1). (30336571)
 - 6.00 *6 O'Clock News* (30336571)
 - 6.30 *Regional news* (30336571)
 - 7.00 *Lookhouse's Memory Masters*. Quiz show presented by Bob Monaghan with Annabel Giles. (30336571)

- BBC2**
- 6.20 *Open University*
 - 6.30 *Broadcast News*. (30336571)
 - 6.55 *Westminster*. On-line with Trevor Phillips (30336571)
 - 9.00 *Daytime on Two*. Educational programmes. Plus, for children, 10.00-10.25 Playdays (2136845)
 - 1.45 *You and Me* (30336571)
 - 2.00 *Spot* (1) (30336571)
 - 2.05 *William's Wish* (30336571)
 - 2.10 *Songs of Praise* (1). (30336571)
 - 2.45 *Tennis*. Sue Barker introduces live action from the French Open: championships. Includes news, regional news and weather at 3.00 and 3.35 (30336571)
 - 6.00 *Star Trek: The Next Generation*. Science-fiction adventures. (30336571)
 - 6.45 *A Bit of Bluff*. Highlights from the popular word game *Cliff*. (30336571)
 - 7.00 *Excel*. The search for Arthur. The second of two programmes in which Professor Gwyn Williams explores the history of the Arthurian myth. (30336571)
 - 7.50 *Top Gear*. Two. Tim Neaseville visits the British Motor Industry Heritage Trust's collection of cars at Gaydon in Warwickshire. (30336571)
 - 8.00 *More Front Gardeners*. Gay Search and Christopher Mason tackle a steeply sloping garden. (30336571)
 - 8.30 *Home Front*. Domestic decoration magazine. (30336571)

- Channel 4, 10.00pm**
- The realism of the Chicago hospital series has often made our *Casualty* look like amateur dramatics, but in this episode authenticity supersedes itself. Not surprisingly, it left American audiences shocked and exhausted. Expectant mothers, in particular, should be warned. Dr Mark Greene (Anthony Edwards) is the man on the spot after he misdiagnoses the stomach pains of a woman whose baby is due in eight weeks. Hardy has sent her away with a bottle of pills that is being rushed back to hospital with eclampsia. The medical team is ferociously pursued into the small hours in a montage of perspiring faces, bloodied hands and anguished screams.



Comedian Bradley Walsh plays for laughs (ITV, 7.00pm)

Midday Touch (ITV, 7.00pm) (Scottish, 5.10pm)

Bradley Walsh hosts an impish game show in which contestants compete for a gold bar worth £5,000. Walsh is a comedian, and never lets us forget it. He bonds on, planting huge kisses on female members of the studio audience, and offers more exclamatory "yeses" than John Major at Question Time. But if Walsh is determined to play the funny man, the contestants are expected to be larger than life as well. In fact the introductions go on so long (are you married?), "where do you come from?", "have you a story for us?" that there is barely time for the contest. The rules turn out to be more complicated than the questions, which tends to reduce the tension, but a winner duly emerges to general hysteria.

- CARLTON**
- 6.00 GMTV (7447549) 9.25 *Win, Lose or Draw* (30336571) 9.55 *London Today* (Teletext) and weather (2009194)
 - 10.00 *Step by Step*. American sitcom starring Patrick Duffy and Suzanne Somers (1) (30336571)
 - 10.30 *This Morning*. Weekly magazine (31117200)
 - 12.20 *London Today* (Teletext) and weather (1091552)
 - 12.30 *News* (Teletext) and weather (2426945)
 - 12.55 *Home and Away* (Teletext) (2336736)
 - 1.25 *Coronation Street* (1) (Teletext) (25207736)
 - 1.55 *A Country Practice* (30336571)
 - 2.20 *One in Five Million*. A woman viewer invites Jeni Barnett into her life (30336571)
 - 2.50 *So Long, M25*. Jeni Barnett takes an activity holiday. Mike McNally visits Victoria coach station and Matthew Lorenzo dresses around Kent (30336571)
 - 3.20 *ITN News* headlines (Teletext) (3731842)
 - 3.25 *London Today* (Teletext) and weather (3730113)
 - 3.30 *Alphabet Castle* (1) (30336571)
 - 3.40 *Whodunnit* (1) (30336571)
 - 3.50 *Warner Brothers Cartoons* (1) (30336571)
 - 4.00 *Sooty and Co* (1) (30336571)
 - 4.25 *Tales from the Cryptkeeper* (Teletext) (30336571)
 - 4.50 *How 2* (Teletext) (1555663)
 - 5.10 *After 5* with Lorraine Kelly (Teletext) (7256939)
 - 5.40 *News* (Teletext) and weather (30336571)
 - 5.55 *You Shout*. Viewers' opinions (30336571)
 - 6.00 *Home and Away* (1) (Teletext) (484)
 - 6.30 *London Tonight* (Teletext) (736)
 - 7.00 *The Midday Touch* (Teletext) (30336571)
 - 7.30 *Coronation Street* (Teletext) (520)
 - 8.00 *Mr Bean Goes to Town* (1) (30336571)

- CHANNEL 4**
- 6.35 *The Adventures of T-Rex* (1) (30336571)
 - 7.00 *The Big Breakfast* (30336571)
 - 9.00 *You Bet Your Life* (1) (30336571)
 - 9.30 *Schools*. Out for Adventure: Schoolground Adventure (30336571) 9.45 *Out for Adventure*: Lookey Hills (30336571) 10.02 *Stage Two Science* (30336571) 10.18 *The Jacobites* (30336571) 10.39 *The Arts Connection* (3441587) 11.00 *Schools at Work* (30336571) 11.05 *Encyclopedia Galactica* (30336571) 11.15 *Visual World* (3317377) 11.30 *Video Showcase* (4675945) 11.40 *Irish Scientists and Inventors* (30336571)
 - 12.00 *House To House*. Political magazine (17281)
 - 12.30 *Sesame Street* (1) (30336571) 1.30 *The Herbs* followed by *Dig, Dig and Daisy* (1) (30336571)
 - 2.00 *The Decision*. Franz Seiberger reaches the top of Piz Pakt, planning to ski down, but then has second thoughts (1) (28257484)
 - 2.15 *Film: Fourteen Hours* (1951, b/w) starring Richard Basehart. A drama about a young man who climbs on to a ledge on the 17th floor of a New York hotel and threatens to jump. Directed by Henry Hathaway (30336571)
 - 4.00 *Jimmy's* (1). (Teletext) (649)
 - 4.30 *Fine To One*. (Teletext) (30336571)
 - 5.00 *Pick Lake*. A discussion on violent and abusive men. (Teletext) (1) (7032484)
 - 5.45 *Terraviva* (30336571)
 - 6.00 *All American Girl*. (Teletext) (30336571)
 - 6.30 *Boy Meets World*. (Teletext) (30336571)
 - 6.55 *For Your Pleasure*. An animated ecological warning (459523)
 - 7.00 *Channel 4 News* (Teletext) includes headlines and weather at 7.30 (444842)
 - 7.55 *The Slot*. Viewers' video soapbox (788910)
 - 8.00 *Brookside*. (Teletext) (30336571)
 - 8.30 *Camcorder*. The fourth of a six-part camcorder user's guide. (Teletext) (30336571)
 - 9.00 *Dispatches*. (Teletext) (30336571)
 - 9.45 *Lloyds Bank Film Challenge: You Know My Story*. A drama starring Shirley Henderson, written by 14-year-old Jennie Roberts from Birmingham. (Teletext) (30336571)



John McHale is hearing impaired (7.30pm)

- 7.30** *The Invisible Wall*. (Teletext) (30336571)
- 8.00** *Hospital Watch*. A further visit to Addenbrooke's in Cambridge (30336571)
- 8.30** *Paul Merton's Life of Comedy*. The comedian concludes his selection of clips from 40 years of television comedy. (Teletext) (1842)
- 9.00** *Nine O'Clock News* (Teletext) regional news and weather (30336571)
- 9.30** *Carolee Arrest*. Last in the hospital drama series. (Teletext) (30336571)
- 10.00** *Fresh and Saunders Go to the Movies*. A compilation of cinematic spoofs from the recent *Fresh and Saunders* series. (Teletext) (30336571)
- 10.30** *Hospital Watch* (30336571)
- 11.00** *FLM: She Knows Too Much* (1989) starring Meryl Streep and Robert Urich. A comedy drama about a streetwise petty crook who is released from prison early in order to help an inept FBI agent investigating a string of murders in Washington. Directed by Paul Lynch. (Teletext) (30336571)
- 12.30am** *FLM: Night, Mother* (1986) starring Sissy Spacek and Anne Bancroft. A drama about a young woman who decides that life is not worth living and informs her mother of her intentions. Directed by Tom Moore (487137) 2.05 *Weather*



George Baker in the south of Spain (8.00pm)

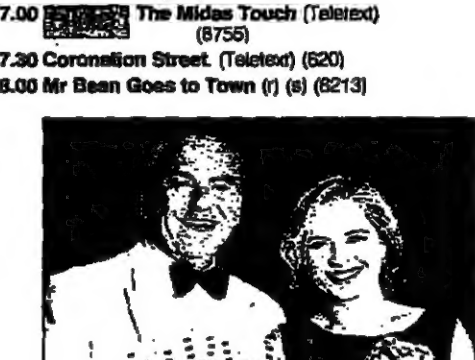
- 9.00** *The Travel Show* introduced by Penny Junior. Includes reports from Seville and Córdoba, a British holiday camp's theme weekend and Antwerp (30336571)
- 9.30** *Troublemaker Returns... to School*. (Teletext) (116465)
- 10.30** *Watch Out*. Wildlife news (30336571)
- 10.50** *Newsnight* with Kirsty Wark. (Teletext) (30336571)
- 11.15** *The Late Show*. Arts and media magazine (30336571)
- 12.00** *Bangkok - A City Speaks* (30336571)
- 12.25am** *Making Medical Decisions: Evaluating Outcomes* (30336571)
- 12.50** *The Record*. The day in Parliament (2181243). Ends at 1.20
- 4.00-4.15** *BBC Select: Benefits Agency Today* (1943663)
- 4.45** *BBC Select: Inland Revenue* (30336571)
- 5.00-6.00** *Voluntary Sector Television* (1) (30336571)

The Invisible Wall (BBC1, 7.30pm)

The disabled, at 6% million one of Britain's biggest minorities, face daily discrimination which is often all the more insidious for being indirect. This new series uses concealed cameras to show how the "invisible wall" operates. The leisure industry provides tonight's examples. A group of deaf friends are excluded from a nightclub, which is said to be for members only. Two B&B men with normal hearing are admitted instantly. The blind man is refused entry to restaurants because of his guide dog and a man who uses an electronic speech machine is told to leave a pub. And a social centre named after John Bejman turns down a request to hold a party because the guests have learning difficulties and might make a mess.

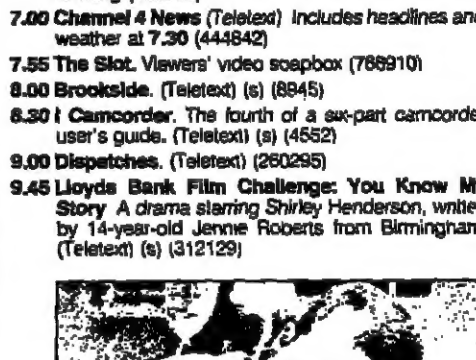
Troublemaker Returns... to School (BBC2, 9.30pm)

Last week Sir John Harvey-Jones was telling us about an upbringing made miserable by a cold and distant father. Schoolboys, it seems, were little better, with the future captain of industry being bullied to the edge of suicide. At this point the other Harvey-Jones, the ebullient righter of other people's messes, roars in with a brutal assessment of the British education system. A Bristol school near the bottom of the exam league tables is castigated for promoting low aspirations. In the same city, Sir John is appalled that the pupils of a famous public school are ignorant of industry and uninterested in it as a career. And joining his granddaughter on teaching practice, he wonders whether she is being properly trained.



Anthony Edwards as Dr Mark Greene (10.00pm)

- 8.30** *The ITN Movie Awards 1995*. Bob Monkhouse and Mariella Frostrup present the awards voted for by TV Times readers (30336571)
- 10.00** *News at Ten* (Teletext) and weather (27668)
- 10.30** *London Tonight* (Teletext) and weather (375194)
- 10.40** *Rugby World Cup 1995*. News round-up from South Africa as the teams prepare for the quarter-final matches (275991)
- 11.10** *11 O'Clock High*. Film and video artists with their own views of the world (30336571)
- 11.40** *Magnum*. Private detective series starring Tom Selick (30336571)
- 12.00am** *The Little Picture Show* (30336571)
- 1.45** *The Album Show* (30336571)
- 2.40** *Hollywood Report* (30336571)
- 3.10** *Amateur Top Ten* (1) (30336571)
- 3.30** *Sport AM*. Bob Symonds presents highlights of the 1995 elite of elite TV races (1) (1243663)
- 4.30** *News*. A look at this year's award-winning Welsh vineyards (30336571)
- 4.55** *The Times*. The Place (1) (30336571)
- 5.30** *ITN Morning News* (50040). Ends at 6.00



Anthony Edwards as Dr Mark Greene (10.00pm)

- 10.00** *ER: Love's Labor Lost* (Teletext) (30336571)
- 10.55** *Four Mothers UK*. Jumping Joan, by Petra Freeman, the story of a lonely child (30336571)
- 11.30** *Cherry* (1). (Teletext) (46194)
- 12.00** *LA Law*. Courtroom drama series (30336571)
- 12.55am** *Four Mothers UK*. Altered Ego, by Ange Palshorpe, about a photographic model with an animated alter ego. *Over the Rainbow*, by Tamsin Gilbert, looks at the bullies that blighted her life (30336571)
- 1.15-2.45** *Film: The Clairvoyant* (1935, b/w) starring Claude Rains and Fay Wray. A drama about a fake mind-reader who discovers that he has the power of genuine clairvoyance when he works with a new assistant. Directed by Maurice Elia (724446)

- ANGLIA**
- As London except: 8.55am-9.00am *Anglia News* (30336571) 9.30am-9.45am *Anglia News* (30336571) 10.00am-10.15am *Anglia News* (30336571) 10.30am-10.45am *Anglia News* (30336571) 11.00am-11.15am *Anglia News* (30336571) 11.30am-11.45am *Anglia News* (30336571) 12.00pm-12.15pm *Anglia News* (30336571) 12.30pm-12.45pm *Anglia News* (30336571) 1.00pm-1.15pm *Anglia News* (30336571) 1.30pm-1.45pm *Anglia News* (30336571) 2.00pm-2.15pm *Anglia News* (30336571) 2.30pm-2.45pm *Anglia News* (30336571) 3.00pm-3.15pm *Anglia News* (30336571) 3.30pm-3.45pm *Anglia News* (30336571) 4.00pm-4.15pm *Anglia News* (30336571) 4.30pm-4.45pm *Anglia News* (30336571) 5.00pm-5.15pm *Anglia News* (30336571) 5.30pm-5.45pm *Anglia News* (30336571) 6.00pm-6.15pm *Anglia News* (30336571) 6.30pm-6.45pm *Anglia News* (30336571) 7.00pm-7.15pm *Anglia News* (30336571) 7.30pm-7.45pm *Anglia News* (30336571) 8.00pm-8.15pm *Anglia News* (30336571) 8.30pm-8.45pm *Anglia News* (30336571) 9.00pm-9.15pm *Anglia News* 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ASMUSSEN NEEDS
DRY GROUND TO
PRESENT DERBY CASE

SPORT

WEDNESDAY JUNE 7 1995

SCOTLAND APPROACH
FAEROE ISLANDS
WITH DUE CAUTION

Kafelnikov sweeps to quarter-final victory against stricken American

Injured Agassi takes French leave

FROM STUART JONES
TENNIS CORRESPONDENT
IN PARIS

ANDRE AGASSI'S dream of becoming only the fifth man to collect all four grand slam titles has been dismantled for another year. The top seed in the French Open, he was yesterday knocked out of the quarter-final as much by injury as by his opponent, Yevgeny Kafelnikov.

Their duel had scarcely begun before it was effectively over. As he slid to his right on the red clay during the fourth game, Agassi felt a sharp pain in his hip. Although he continued, the physical impairment was visible as he subsided to defeat, 6-4, 6-3, 7-5.

With Boris Becker, Stefan Edberg and Pete Sampras, he came to Roland Garros in pursuit of the title that has eluded them all. Whereas his rivals had dropped out of contention before the end of

the first week, he reached the last eight without dropping a set.

His flawless record was undone by a combination of Kafelnikov's ruthless precision and his own lack of mobility. In attempting to shorten the rallies, he struck a few characteristically blazing winners but committed a damaging amount of uncharacteristic errors. He saved three set points before, appreciating that the injury was gradually worsening, he called for the trainer.

At 2-1 down in the second set, he left the Centre Court for treatment and returned three minutes later with his thigh heavily strapped. He rallied in the third set to lead 4-1 but the subsequent loss of 11 successive points confirmed the worst fears of his followers. When Kafelnikov levelled at 4-4, he smiled at colleagues in the players' box, convinced that victory would soon be his.

It was, in two minutes short



Kafelnikov stretches for a forehand during the triumph over Agassi that secured his place in the semi-finals at Roland Garros yesterday. Photograph: Lionel Cironneau

of two hours. Agassi walked off without bothering to take his equipment with him, denied the chance of joining Don Budge, Fred Perry, Roy Emerson and Rod Laver as the champions of Australia, France, Wimbledon and the United States.

He expressed doubts about whether he will be able to recover fully in time for Wimbledon, where he claimed the first of his grand slam championships in 1992. "It will

change my preparations, for sure," as he put it, "and I don't know whether it will hinder me."

Kafelnikov, the ninth seed, might still have won, as he did on the only other occasion the two had met on clay, but he was still bewildered by his triumph. "Coming to the court, I didn't think I had a chance," the 21-year-old Russian said. "I should have lost the first set and then I was suddenly running around the court faster than I ever have before. I don't have any explanation."

He insisted he was unaware that his opponent was operat-

ing like a winged bird. He was more concerned about the radical change in his own fortunes.

He had been so disheartened by his defeat in the Italian Open three weeks ago that he had considered withdrawing from the French Open. Now he is in the semi-final, where he will take on the formidable Thomas Muster, the fifth seed, who eliminated Alberto Costa, 6-2, 3-6, 6-7, 7-5, 6-2.

Muster extended his unbeaten run on clay, which has lasted since October, to 33 matches. Only Bjorn Borg and Guillermo Vilas have estab-

lished a more prolonged dominance on the surface, but the Austrian's sequence was under greater threat than at any time during the last seven months.

Costa had earlier dismissed Jim Courier, twice the former champion. He was poised to claim an equally notable victim when he took a 2-1 lead in the fifth set, but Muster relished nothing more than a test of endurance.

A fitness fanatic, he reeled off the last five games, grunting all the while. His bark is worse than his bite. His game is overtly muscular and he batters the opposition into

submission rather than persistently subduing them with one particular weapon.

In an unprecedented move, all four women's quarter-finals were held on Court A, the secondary arena. A more appropriate stage for the witheringly predictable mismatches would have been a small clearing deep in the middle of the Bois de Boulogne.

Iva Majoli, the 17-year-old who had knocked out Mary Pierce, began the sorry process. She led 5-2 in the first set against Kimiko Date before yielding 10 successive games. "I haven't played this bad for

some time," she admitted after losing 7-5, 6-4. Worse, though, was to come. Gabriela Sabatini capitulated to the heaviest defeat inflicted by Steffi Graf in their 39 matches, going out 6-1, 6-0.

Nor did the leading spinners have much of a challenge. Chanda Rubin collected a mere three points on her own serve in the second set against Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario, the holder, and Virginia Ruano-Pascal was 6-0, 5-1 down to Conchita Martinez before she made any impact.

Results, page 44

Beckenham report, page 43

Gomarsall to cover as Bracken struggles for fitness

FROM DAVID HAVES
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT
IN JOHANNESBURG

ANDY GOMARSALL, the young Wasps scrum half who was expected to play for England A against an Australian XV in Brisbane today, will instead be flying to South Africa to join the World Cup squad in Johannesburg.

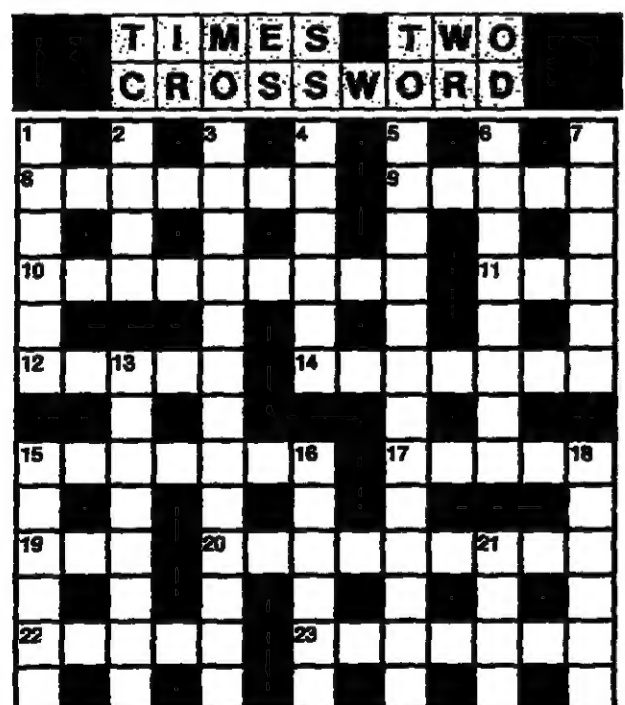
Gomarsall, 21, is expected here tomorrow to act as cover in the event of Kyran Bracken breaking down in training. Bracken damaged his Achilles tendon playing against Italy a week ago and exacerbated the injury in training. England's medical team, and the player himself, are confident that he will be available to play Australia in the quarter-final in Cape Town on Sunday but England are taking no chances. The possibility of meeting Australia with a makeshift scrum half among the replacements does not appeal.

England's two leading referees, Ed Morrison and Steve Lander, have both been retained among the final 4 who will handle the remaining tournament matches. Indeed, the only home unions official no longer required is Ken McCartney, of Scotland.

The referee for the World Cup final, depending upon the countries involved, is likely to come from the four who handle this weekend's quarter-finals. England's game in Cape Town on Sunday pits David Bishop, the New Zealander who was mishandled by the then French coach, Daniel Dubroca, the England's 1991 quarter-final with France. Morrison has been awarded the France-Ireland game in Dublin. Scotland's Jim Fleming the South Africa-Western Samoa clash and Derek Bevan, of Wales, the New Zealand-Scotland clash.

Meanwhile, the sport's leading administrators have rejected an appeal by the South Africa hooker, James Dalkin, against his suspension from the World Cup. Dalkin, one of three players sent off during the pool game between South Africa and Canada in Port Elizabeth last Saturday, must serve his 30-day ban and so will miss the remainder of the tournament. He is released in the South Africa squad by Naka Drottske.

Do-or-die England, page 42



No 489

ACROSS

- 8 Organise; put in order (7)
- 9 Workers' representatives (5)
- 10 London borough; a meridian (9)
- 11 Teasingly shy (3)
- 12 Entertainment with topical sketches etc (5)
- 14 Unexplained, wonderful event (7)
- 15 Sleeveless vest (7)
- 17 Seek water with twig (5)
- 19 To rear (of ship) (3)
- 20 Pet; one experimented on (6,3)
- 22 Exhaust; water-channel (5)
- 23 Weathering process (7)

DOWN

- 1 Old car; sausage (6)
- 2 Arboreal plant (4)
- 3 Stupid (13)
- 4 Spiritualist; middling (6)
- 5 Rant excessively (Hamlet) (3-5-5)
- 6 Person affording regular, easy profit (5,3)
- 7 Protein, acts as catalyst in body (6)
- 13 Man from the city of canals (8)
- 15 Beer/lemonade; Tristram (Stern) (6)
- 16 Tripod support for cooking-pot (6)
- 18 Machine giving power (6)
- 21 Physical hurt (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 488

ACROSS: 1 Fair game 5 Serf 8 Appal 9 Landing 11 Cut 12 Tightrope 13 Darken 15 Speech 18 Slug it out 19 Jul 20 Anodyne 21 Hedge 22 Flirt 23 Countess
DOWN: 1 Placid 2 Input 3 Gild the lily 4 Malign 6 Epitome 7 Fugue 10 Not a patch on 14 Rancorous 16 Hatless 17 Bolero 18 Swarf 19 Judge

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England grace the world stage

Andrew Longmore on an historic day for the nation's women footballers and their manager

HISTORY was made on two counts in the handsome setting of the Olympic Stadium in Helsingborg, Sweden, last night. England's women played their first match in the World Cup, surviving a late rally by Canada to win 3-2, and Ted Copeland, the England manager, took the first recorded time-out in English international football after 36 minutes. "Ah," a Swedish journalist said, "the English are taking a teabreak."

Time-outs are part of the American way of sport and were first proposed - by Rodney Marsh, among others - to spice up the World Cup and to increase advertising revenue. Fifa, the world governing body, refused the approaches then, but experiments in Brazil and the Swedish Premier League have prefaced its introduction here.

Sides are allowed one two-minute time-out for coaching each half, at a natural break in the game and, if the experiment is deemed profitable, will doubtless be used on a more prominent stage in future. The time-out did not interrupt the flow of the game nor, it must be said, did it have any noticeable effect on the tactics.

The last time an England international football team set foot on Swedish soil, Gary Lineker was hastened on his way to life as a potato crisp salesman and England were sent packing from the European championship by the host nation. Lineker was substituted that night, you may recall, and replaced by Alan Smith in a decision which widely heralded the beginning of the end for the England manager, Graham Taylor. Though none of the team will see it this way, England's qualification as one of the best 12 teams in the world against nations who regard women's football as rather more than just a freak show is a victory in itself. The one drawback to what most of the team regard

as an adventure as well as a football tournament is that the disparity between countries such as Sweden, where three or four of the women have equal media status with the men, will only serve to heighten the depressing gap in understanding when they return home to the usual apathy.

The opening match of the tournament here on Monday, which the Swedes lost 1-0 to Brazil in a replica of the men's game in the Umbro Cup at Villa Park, attracted a crowd of more than 14,000, a triumphing contrast to the 1,000 who watched England play their home leg against Germany in the European championship last year. The gap in professionalism is equally marked.

The United States, for example, the defending champions and overwhelming favourites for this tournament, have been in camp for the past six months with salaries paid up for the duration at an estimated cost of \$1.25 million (about £800,000). Clare Taylor, a double international at football and cricket, has been forced to take two weeks' leave from her job in the Post Office and lost £150 for the extra week unpaid "holiday" needed for England's preparation at Bisham Abbey and in Helsingborg last week.

Outside the Olympic Stadium last night, trade on the souvenir stalls where you could buy a fluffy Viking mascot called Fi-Fi for about £15 was less brisk than the wind and a band played "Living Doll" to a crowd consisting of a mother and toddler. Inside, the crowd was a few hundred strong. England should have felt entirely at ease and looked it against a Canadian side strong on running, short on ideas.

They seemed to have the game well won with 15 minutes left, through two penalties converted by Coulard and Spacy, and a header from Coulard but Canada scored twice in a frantic finale.

Robson rejects Arsenal managerial offer

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

ARSENAL'S search for new direction was no clearer yesterday after Bobby Robson, the former England manager, turned down the chance of forsaking FC Porto, in Portugal, for the marbled splendour of Highbury. While the summer transfer market is already in full swing, Arsenal are not among the leading players and are instead in an undignified state of managerial turmoil.

Robson yesterday declined the offer to return to England to replace Stewart Houston, who guided Arsenal to the final of the European Cup Winners' Cup in the wake of George Graham's dismissal in February. Though Robson spoke with Peter Hill-Wood, the Arsenal chairman,

last week, and the talks proved mutually agreeable, Porto were unwilling to release him from the remaining two years of his contract.

The Portuguese champions, who will compete in the European Cup next season, had even threatened to report Arsenal to Uefa, the sport's European governing body, for an alleged illegal approach. In the end, Robson terminated all discussions. "I have a commitment to Porto and that will be respected," he said. "I am staying here."

A Porto spokesman said yesterday: "Mr Robson is out on the training pitch with the players right now and is enjoying it. He said this morning that he will be staying with us until his contract expires."

Arsenal offered Robson the chance to become their director of football, with Houston resuming his previous role as first team coach, but the initially encouraging response evaporated when Jorge Pinto da Costa, the Porto president, became aware of the situation. With team strengthening at Highbury now vital and with Manchester City and Sheffield Wednesday also seeking managers of FA Carling Premiership repute, Arsenal may now have to look abroad.

Manchester City yesterday denied any blame for the sudden collapse of the transfer of their striker, Niall Quinn, to Sporting Lisbon. Lisbon have withdrawn from the £2 million move claiming there were unresolved problems between City and the Ireland striker.

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